



Shashi Tharoor takes on BJP over the surge in mob-lynching

page 7



India to join Bangladesh in commemorating 100 years of Bangabandhu

page 12



Sirisena forms panel to probe Easter Sunday bombings

page 14

de Kock guides South Africa to a series-levelling win

page 18



NEARBY



No leads in Madhu Vihar killing, 30 questioned

NEW DELHI

Even after questioning over 30 people, the police are yet to make a headway in the murder of a 59-year-old woman, who was shot dead by bike-borne assailants in east Delhi's Madhu Vihar on Saturday. An officer said on Sunday that they had obtained footages from 20 CCTVs along the possible escape routes taken by the two assailants after the murder.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Women molested at resto-pub; probe on

NEW DELHI

Three women were allegedly molested by a group of men at a resto-bar in south Delhi's Greater Kailash, the police said on Sunday. The complainant posted her ordeal on social media. DCP (South) Atul Thakur said, "We have registered an FIR and obtained CCTV footage to ascertain the identity of the accused."

CITY ► PAGE 3



EDUCATIONPLUS ► 4 PAGES

Choose nationalistic parties, says Amit Shah

BJP kicks off Maharashtra campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI



Amit Shah at a meeting in Mumbai on Sunday.

■ ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

just serves a family," asked Mr. Shah.

He was addressing a public rally organised by the Mumbai unit of the BJP on the withdrawal of Article 370.

The BJP is set to contest the coming Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections on this plank.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
LOCAL MATTERS ► EDITORIAL

Cannabis high for Manipur's start-up dream

The State government is exploring the possibility of using it for medicine

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Cannabis legalised for medicinal and industrial use may give Manipur's start-up dream a high.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government, headed by Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, has been hard-selling its 'Start-up Manipur' campaign since August 2018. Round two of the campaign began on September 20.

On Sunday, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* from Imphal that his government was planning to legalise cannabis, or marijuana, to enable units of companies using it as an ingredient for medicines or for other industrial purposes to open.



Wanted weed: Cannabis is often grown in extremist-controlled areas. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

Start-ups would also be considered. "But such companies have to be capable," he said.

Mr. Singh said he had taken his cue from States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand that have

legalised cultivation and harvest of cannabis for medicinal purposes.

"Oil extracted from cannabis is known to be useful in strengthening nerves and treating people suffering from paralysis. Also, legalising cannabis can boost the economy," he said.

After the first round of 'Start-up Manipur', the State government reportedly identified 334 entrepreneurs for financial assistance. Of them, 29 were seen to have high potential.

'Best weed'

Cannabis competes with opium across large swathes of land in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland. Drug enforcement officials say the cannabis

grown in remote areas of Manipur is considered the "best weed" across the country.

Agencies such as the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) destroy poppy cultivation but have a tough time checking cannabis grown on a large scale in interior areas. Moreover, many plantations are in areas controlled by extremist groups.

Surveys by the NCB and some private agencies say much of the marijuana in Manipur has been cultivated for at least four decades in Churachandpur, Senapati and Ukhrul districts.

Manipur is on the edge of the Golden Triangle of drug trade, comprising Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and China.

Swaying to the season



Festive spirit: Dancers in traditional attire rehearsing Garba, a dance style which originated in Gujarat, ahead of Navaratri, in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The festival begins on September 29. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

₹37,000 crore tax savings for top firms

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

The Centre's move to cut corporate tax rates from 30% to 22% through an ordinance issued on Friday will yield tax savings of at least ₹37,000 crore for the top 1,000 listed companies, said Crisil Research in an impact note called 'Tax s(h)aving' released on Sunday.

These firms account for over a fourth of the ₹1.45 lakh crore tax revenue loss estimated by the government. The tax savings for these firms could be even higher, Crisil reckoned, as the ₹37,000 crore estimate is based on profits before tax for 2018-19.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
NO TARGET REVISION ► PAGE 12

Kashmir Valley's IT hub gasps as Net shutdown continues

Several workers at the Rangreth facility have been laid off

VIJAITA SINGH
SRINAGAR

It's "no work, no pay" for Omar Yousuf, a computer engineer in Srinagar. He comes to office every day though.

The future of Yousuf and hundreds of others employed in the IT sector in the Kashmir Valley is in jeopardy due to the prolonged Internet shutdown. Several workers have been handed pink slips.

The sprawling Information Technology (IT) hub at Rangreth in Budgam district, on the outskirts of Srinagar, wears a deserted look.

Since Internet connectivity was snapped on August 5 following the revocation of the special status of the State under Article 370, one of the only IT hubs in the Valley is struggling for survival. There are approximately 1,200 employees who work in the Rangreth complex.

Funds crunch

Some firms that have been operating here for over a decade have had to lay off as much as 60% of their staff as they are unable to bear financial losses as a result of the shutdown. "Internet is oxygen for the IT sector; how can we survive in its absence?" said one of the founders of a firm at Rangreth. He, however, wished to remain anonymous.

Uncertain future

The future of IT sector workers in Kashmir Valley is in jeopardy because of the prolonged Internet shutdown

- Around 22,000 persons are employed in around 500 IT firms
- Around 1,200 work in seven companies in the industrial complex at Rangreth in Budgam district
- The Internet connection was never suspended in the IT hub even during the agitation and unrest in 2008, 2010 and 2016
- The Department of Telecommunications has strict security compliance norms for IT companies. They have to maintain a logbook of all URLs visited by them and their clients for six months



■ Internet was snapped at the IT hub after Mehbooba Mufti's tweets on the afternoon of August 5, hours after connectivity was suspended across the State

The entrepreneur says the Valley has seen several disturbances in the past, including the 2016 unrest after the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, but the IT sector was never hit the way it has been this time.

He said the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has stringent compliance protocols for IT service providers in the State. The service providers have to maintain a log of each Uniform Resource Locator (URL) accessed by them and their clients through the commercial leased lines and report to the authorities on a daily basis.

"We have to send people to Delhi to check e-mails. In

the past one month, we lost two clients and suffered a loss of ₹8-9 crore. We are a small company... 60% employees are serving notice; we have no option but to lay them off. It feels bad – these young men and women have been associated with us for several years," he said.

"We come here, talk to each other and leave whenever we wish to. There is nothing to do, we did not receive salary for the month of August," says Khalid Bhat, who works at an IT services and software firm.

Mr. Bhat earned ₹20,000 per month.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
SURINAME BACKS DECISION ON SPECIAL STATUS ► PAGE 12

Rajnath warns Pak. not to repeat its mistakes

'Rights violations can break up nation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

Warning Pakistan not to repeat the "mistakes of 1965 and 1971", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the neighbouring country could get broken into various parts due to flagrant human rights violations against the Baloch and the Pashtun.

On the government's decision to revoke Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, he said the constitutional provision was like a "canker" that bled the State, and asserted that a majority of the population in the State supported the move.

Addressing a 'Jan Jagran Sabha' (public awareness meeting) organised by the BJP, where leaders spoke on the decision to strip the State of its special status, Mr.



Rajnath Singh at the 'Jan Jagran Sabha' in Patna on Sunday. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

Singh said his party had lived up to its promises.

"As a nationalist party, the BJP never softened its stand on the issue. Article 370 was like *nasoor* (canker), which left Jammu and Kashmir bleeding. We have now demonstrated that we are an honest and credible party, which fulfils its promises," he said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Khalistani terror module busted

Initial probe reveals use of drones to deliver weapons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab police on Sunday said it had busted a terrorist module of the revived Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) that was conspiring to unleash a series of terrorist strikes in Punjab and adjoining States.

The module was backed by the Pakistan-based chief of the KZF, Ranjeet Singh, alias Neeta, and his German-based associate, Gurmeet Singh, alias Bagga.

Four persons were arrested and a huge cache of arms, including five AK-47 rifles, pistols, satellite phones and hand grenades, seized.

The module was planning to carry out multiple terrorist strikes in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and other States.



Punjab CM Amarinder Singh has decided to hand over probe to the NIA.

Given the international links and ramifications of the conspiracy, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has decided to hand over the investigation to the National Investigation Agency to ensure that the conspiracy is fully and expeditiously unravelled.

With initial investigations revealing the use of drones to deliver terrorists weapons and communication hardware from across the border, the Chief Minister

urged the Union government to direct the Indian Air Force and the Border Security Force to launch countermeasures to check any threat from drones to the border State.

Director-General of Police Dinkar Gupta said the weapons were suspected to have been delivered recently across the border from Pakistan through drones. He said the aim was to scale up terrorism in J&K, Punjab and the Indian hinterland, in the wake of the recent developments in the Valley.

Neeta and Bagga had reorganised their terror group. "With the help of sleeper cells, they had spotted, radicalised and recruited local members, besides arranging funds and sophisticated weapons from across the border," Mr. Gupta said.

Theft at Minister's house, case registered

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Sunday alleged that there was an incident of theft at his residence in Saraswati Vihar, the police said. A case has been registered.

The police received a call regarding the theft around 9.30 pm.

The complaint made by Mr. Jain's wife, Poonam, stated that the house had been locked for the past six months and that the neighbour intimidated them that the main gate seemed to be open. Mr. Jain also shared pictures on Twitter showing the ransacked premises.

Some kitchen and bathroom taps and some showpieces were found missing, the police said, adding that a probe is under way.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: "5G and US - China Technology Conflict" by Prof. Arogyaswami Paulraj, Emeritus Professor, Stanford University. Chair: Prof. Ambuj Sagar, Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Professor of Policy Studies & Head, School of Public Policy, IIT, Delhi. The talk will outline what is 5G and why it is important from an economic and security perspective at India International Centre, 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Magic of Realism", a solo painting exhibition by Shuvendu Sarkar at India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Rumination of An Unfettered Mind", a solo show by Laxmi Gupta at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@delhi.thehindu.co.in)

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	67	Gurgaon	34
Ghaziabad	68	Faridabad	46
Greater Noida	70	Noida	67
Legend: 0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very poor >401 Severe			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

Sealing drive in Vikas Nagar renders potters jobless

They want government to help them in switching over to cleaner fuels instead of shutting down the pottery units

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Outside her asbestos-roofed two-room rented house in Vikas Nagar, 40-year-old Sheela is worried about how to feed her six children. For many like her, pottery making is the only livelihood. But they were shattered after the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) had sealed 22 pottery units in the area on September 11 for causing pollution.

"They [officials] came and sealed the furnace last Wednesday. I am really tensed about what we will eat. We are not educated and we don't know any other job. If there is no work, we will go hungry," she said and added, "There is no help from the government to convert to gas or electric furnace. How will we do it then?" Sheela asked.

Across Kumar Colony in Vikas Nagar, which houses



Women at work in Kumhar Colony, which is home to several potters. • SANDEEP SAXENA

around 600 potter families, people said that government should help them in moving to cleaner fuels instead of shutting them down. Most of the potters use earthen furnace to make pots and diyas.

The civic body had sealed the units for using wood and sawdust and thus causing pollution, following directions from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee

(DPCC). The move came after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) asked the DPCC to file an action taken report on an ongoing case of alleged pollution due to pottery units operating in the city in April.

"We would inspect the area again and decide the future course of action," a DPCC official told *The Hindu*, when asked whether more such units will be sealed.



Hari Kishen gives shape to a clay utensil at Kumharon ki Basti in Bindapur. • V.V. KRISHNAN

Sheela's husband, Mahaveer Prajapat, 45, from Rajasthan said his family has been making pottery for at least five generations now. "My father came to Delhi from Alwar and I have been in Delhi for the last 35 years. After a week, I have starting making pots since last Wednesday and plan to use a friend's furnace," he said, while putting a chunk of mud onto the pot-

ter's wheel. "We will have to do something to eat, right?" he said with a sigh.

"We sell one batch of about 250-300 pots for about ₹4,500," he said.

A little away from Sheela's house, Giriraj Prajapat, 50, whose furnace was also sealed demanded help from the government. "Either give us another job or move us to another place or give us sub-

Be a champion in fight against dengue: Kejriwal

122 dengue cases recorded till Sept. 7

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

On the fourth Sunday of the '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' campaign that the Delhi government has been carrying out against dengue, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to the people of Delhi to become champions in the fight against the disease and nominate others on social media to post pictures of themselves checking their homes to eliminate breeding of mosquitoes.

CM's tweet

"Today, after checking my house for 10 minutes, I called 10 of my friends and encouraged them to check

their houses. This time we have to defeat dengue. #DilliKeChampion," the CM tweeted.

He also released a video of himself checking his home and urged Delhiites to not only inspect their homes but also post the message on WhatsApp groups and write, "I have inspected my house for dengue. You also do the same". By doing so, he said, Delhiites would become champion against dengue.

The number of dengue cases recorded till September 7 stood at 122, with 30 of being reported in the current month and 52 in August.

BJP launches campaign to expose AAP govt.'s 'failures'

Leaders apprise people in 22 constituencies of how govt. has 'misled' them in name of regularisation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP unit on Sunday launched a campaign with a slogan 'Dilli Bachao Bhajpa Lao' in 22 Assembly constituencies to expose the "fraud and failures" of Arvind Kejriwal's government to regularise unauthorised colonies.

BJP leaders directly apprised the people in 22 Assembly constituencies of how the Kejriwal government has "misled" the people of Delhi in the name of regularisation.

"At the time of elections political parties make promises but forget it after coming to power. In his election manifesto, Mr. Kejriwal had promised that unauthorised

colonies will be regularised and all the basic amenities will be provided. However, even after about five years, he has not done anything," the State BJP said.

Addressing meetings at Burari, Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad constituencies, Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari said, "Kejriwal government does not want to regularise these unauthorised colonies. During the last 55 months Kejriwal has been the cause of sufferings of people living in these colonies and now in view of elections, he is trying to become sympathetic."

"In 2015, when Delhi government was required to submit a report to the Urban Development Ministry re-

During the last 55 months Kejriwal has been the cause of sufferings of people living in these colonies and now in view of elections, he is trying to become sympathetic

MANOJ TIWARI
Delhi BJP president

garding the regularisation of unauthorised colonies, Kejriwal demanded two years time to submit the report. After two years when the Ministry sought the report, the Delhi government again requested extension of the time period by two years," alleged Mr. Tiwari.

He added that the Urban Development Ministry took it seriously and formed a committee under the L-G of Delhi, adding that the committee submitted its report within three months and on the basis of it, the process of regularisation has been started.

"The people living in unauthorised colonies cannot be left at the mercy of Kejriwal. Central government has already framed scheme for regularising these unauthorised colonies and soon the people will get the health services, education, employment and better living conditions," Mr. Tiwari said.

Responding to the BJP's campaign AAP said that Urban Development Minister

Hardeep Puri and the Delhi BJP chief have exposed falsehood of the BJP.

"Till now there was a confusion among people as to whose job it is to regularise the colonies. And it was responsibility of both the governments. Any colony, in order to be regularised, has to first be provided basic facilities like water, electricity and sewage. Delhi government has played its role of providing all basic facilities in this colonies and the only step left is approval for regularisation, from the Centre," an AAP spokesperson said.

Mr. Puri said that the Delhi government had fulfilled its obligations and now it was the Centre who should play its role.

North civic body plans to run free public toilets

Estimated cost of maintaining all units has been pegged at about ₹10 crore

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

To tackle the issue of open defecation in its jurisdiction, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation has planned to run public toilets free of charge. The civic body has invited tenders for the operation and maintenance of these units on a 'free user charge' basis, from interested parties.

ODF certification

Despite repeated efforts, the North civic body has failed to receive an Open Defecation Free (ODF) certification, which forms an important part of the Union government-instituted 'swatchatta rankings'. In July, prior to inspections for

ODF certification, the civic body had carried out regular inspections and reportedly built 500 extra toilets to ensure it gets the certificate, but failed to do so. The South and East Delhi Municipal Corporations, on the other hand, have issued the certificate.

On September 18, tenders were invited for the maintenance of 131 community toilet complexes with a total of 3,029 water closet or toilet. While user charges are typically allowed in order to supplement the upkeep of public toilets, in the present case, the civic body will be covering the charges. The North civic body will bear the cost of operation, management and maintenance

and the agency will "not be permitted to take user charges from users under any circumstances", the document states.

The scheme is being implemented to get rid of the "menace of rampant open defecation", it states, adding that the agency which wins the contract would be expected to work towards this target.

Overall, the estimated cost of maintaining all units, which have been grouped into 13 categories, has been pegged at about ₹10 crore.

The contracted agency will be responsible for cleanliness of the facility, mopping on an hourly basis, provision of security, daily repairs, prevention of en-

croachments, proper lighting around the toilet complexes, provision of dustbins, including separate disposal of sanitary napkins, provision of soap and washing powder free of charge and other basic facilities. The toilets will have to be open round the clock, throughout the year.

The tender also makes specifications with regard to labour laws, liabilities on water and electricity charges and other guarantees which fall upon the contracted agency. Among other instances of default, if the agency charges user fees, it will be a breach of the agreement with the civic body and could lead to termination of the contract.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

J&K State - Navratra Festival



To promote pilgrimage tourism in J&K State, the Navratra Festival was started in 1996 and the event has attained an International fame and popularity over the years. This Mega event is an opportunity to one and all, for not only paying obeisance to Maa Vaishno Devi, but also be blessed during these pious days.

The festival is organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and District Administration, Reasi in collaboration with Jammu Tourism and active participation of Local host community/ Tourism Trade Industry of Katra, NGO's and under able guidance of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. More than 3 Lac Pilgrims visit the holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji during the auspicious 9 days of festivities. In the year 2018, 3,18,753 pilgrims paid their obeisance during Navratras where as 3,02,067 pilgrims registered for darshans in 2017.

This year the Navratra Festival is being organized at Katra from 29th of September, 2019 to 07 October, 2019. The Hon'ble Governor of J&K has been requested to grace the occasion and inaugurate the Festival on 29th September, 2019 at 11AM.

The District Administration, Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has made elaborate arrangements for Navratras in Katra and all along the holy track for comfortable and memorable Yatra. Wide publicity campaign has been undertaken through print and electronic media by Jammu Tourism so as to invite the devotees for this festival and convey the message of peace in the state. The Hotel Association of Katra and JKTDC have offered 50% discount to tourists on Hotel Tariffs during the festival period.

CVPPPL holds 8th Annual General Meeting



8th Annual General Meeting of Chenab Valley Power Projects [P] Ltd was held on 20th September 2019 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Navin Kumar Choudhary, IAS, Chairman, CVPPPL and Principal Secretary, Industry & Commerce Department, GoJ&K at Jammu.

Annual account for the year 2018-19 was adopted in the AGM. The AGM was also attended by board members namely Sh. Hirdesh Kumar, Commissioner/ Secretary JKPPD GoJ&K, Sh M.K Mittal, Director (Finance) NHPC, Sh A.K. Mishra, MD, NHDC and Sh M.S. Babu Managing Director CVPPPL besides representatives of NHPC, JKSPDC and PTC Ltd.

CVPPPL a joint venture company among NHPC Ltd. (A Govt of India Enterprise) (49%), JKSPDC (A Govt of J&K Undertaking) (49%) and PTC(India) Ltd (2%) is entrusted with the implementation of four hydroelectric projects i.e. Pakal Dul (1000 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kwar (540 MW) and Dulhasti Stage-II (550 MW) HE Projects in Chenab basin.

"The way to New India Passes through Banasthali": Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'



The 36th Convocation of Banasthali Vidyapeeth has been held on Friday, 20 September 2019. Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Tree plantation by HUDCO



Dr. M. Ravi Kanth, CMD, HUDCO, planted saplings to launch a tree plantation drive, as part of a series of

events planned to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi under the Swachh Bharat Mission. On the occasion, a mass awareness campaign rally was also organized by HUDCO.

Swachata Pakhwara Underway in Modern Coach Factory

In line with the directives of Ministry of Railways, Modern Coach Factory at Lalgarh is observing Swachata Pakhwara from 15.09.2019 to 30.09.2019. As the name of the factory suggests the facility has advanced robotic assembly lines and machines to cater to demand of superior LHB coaches. The factory is also exploring new arena to export coaches, manufacture of aluminium and high speed train sets.

North central railway, Allahabad



Meeting with Hon'ble Members of parliament with JHANSI division held at Jhansi. JHANSI division of North Central Railway caters to 18 districts and 11 Lok Sabha constituencies distributed over Uttar and Madhya Pradesh. This annual meeting among elected representatives of people with senior officials of concerned zone and division is platform where works done by railways are shared with concerned MPs of Lok Sabha and Rajyasabha and Hon'ble MPs take up issues of public interest and improved facilities pertaining to railways. Today's meeting of Jhansi Division was attended by Dr VIRENDRA Kumar MP Teekamgarh, Sri VIVEK NARAYAN Sejvalkar MP Gwalior, Sri Anurag Sharma MP Jhansi, Sri BHANU pratap Singh VERMA MP Jalaun, Sri Vishnu Dutt Sharma MP Khujraho, Smt Sandhya RAI MP BHIND from Lok Sabha and Sri PRABHAT JHA, Dr Chandrapal Singh YADAV MPs from Rajyasabha besides representatives of 04 MPs. From railway side General Manager Sri Rajiv Chaudhry, all principal head of departments of NCR, DRM JHANSI Sri SANDEEP MATHUR and Branch Officers from JHANSI attended this meeting.

Walkathon held on World Heart Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A walkathon titled 'Walk for your Heart' was organised on the occasion of World Heart Day in Sector 51 here on Sunday to spread awareness about heart diseases.

The event, which began at 6 a.m., saw participation of several hundreds. It was aimed at informing people that by regulating risk factors, such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and tobacco use, one can contain up to 80% of premature deaths.

Starting and culminating at Artemis Hospitals, the walkathon covered a 5-km and a 10-km route. The event also supported the cause 'My vote - My responsibility'.

Devlina Chakravarty, MD, Artemis Global Life Sciences and Manjinder Sandhu, Director, Cardiology & Artemis Cardiac Care Hospitals, flagged off the event.

CM to take part in climate summit in Denmark

He will speak on solutions to pollution

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Sunday said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal would be participating in the C40 Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, scheduled between October 9 and 12 at which he would be presenting the government's experience in tackling air pollution in the city.

Mr. Kejriwal is expected to join leaders of cities like New York, London, Paris, Los Angeles and Berlin to deliberate on the climate crisis impacting the world.

"He will present the initiatives taken by his government that led to 25% reduction in air pollution and explain how after years of gaining notoriety as one of the world's most-polluted capitals of the world, a major shift was made in the discourse," the government said.

It added that the CM is ex-



Arvind Kejriwal •

pected to speak on the role of improved electricity supply, phasing out of generator sets, peripheral highways, crackdown on construction sites, increased green cover and massive reduction in industrial pollution due to shutting down of two thermal power plants and shifting industry to CNG, apart from the odd-even scheme.

Environment Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "It is a moment of pride for India that a leader of the country will present a major governance success story before the world."

T.M. Krishna performs at Awam ki Awaz

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government organised its first musical concert of the season with Carnatic music vocalist T.M. Krishna performing at Connaught Place's Central Park.

The event titled 'Awam ki Awaz' is part of the government's initiative on decentralising art and culture and making performances by renowned musicians accessible to people.

"T.M. Krishna is one of the most well-known classical vocalists of India and his songs always carry a message of harmony and diversity. The goal of this event is to spread the message of harmony through culture," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia while inaugurating the event.

Mr. Krishna performed along with Jogappas, members of a traditional community of transwomen musicians.

Man confesses to killing wife over suspicion of infidelity, held

He chopped the body, dumped parts into a septic tank and a drain: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 33-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing his wife on suspicion of infidelity in Rohini's Prem Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

"On Sunday afternoon, a man came to Prem Nagar police station and told the duty officer that he had killed his wife, Seema, and dumped the body into a septic tank after chopping it," said an officer. The policemen then reached the spot where a forensic and a crime team were called. "A body was found but the torso was missing. When the



(From left) Seema; her husband Aashu in police custody.
*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

accused was further questioned, he said he had dumped the torso in a nearby drain," the officer added. Aashu said he committed the crime as he suspected his wife of having an affair with someone, the police



said. The couple had a fight on Saturday over some domestic issue. Following this, he brought her to their old house in Prem Nagar on the pretext of some work. He first hit her with a

brick and then stabbed her, the police said.

Informed in-laws

"After the killing, Aashu called his mother-in-law and said he has murdered his wife. Initially, his in-laws thought it was a prank but when they were unable to trace their daughter, they started looking for Aashu," added the officer.

The couple got married 10 years ago and is survived by three daughters. DCP (Rohini) S.D. Mishra said the accused, who worked at a computer repair shop, has been arrested under IPC Section 302 (murder).

Five held for ATM thefts in city, ₹2 lakh recovered

Accused used to spray paint on CCTVs

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Five men have been arrested for their alleged involvement in cases of ATM thefts in NCR, the police said on Sunday.

The accused were nabbed from south Delhi's Maidan Garhi when they were about to target an ATM. The gang used to spray paint on CCTVs installed both inside and outside ATM booths to avoid detection, the police said.

The accused – Ali Jaan (32), Akhtar Hussain (47), Amir (22), Shamshaad (21) – all from Haryana's Mewat and Mohammad Waseem (39) from Delhi's Chandan Hola, used to target unguarded ATMs in isolated places, the police said.

On the intervening night

of September 14 and 15, the five men robbed ₹28.89 lakh after cutting open an ATM in Asola using gas-cutter. A trap was laid after which Ali, Amir and Hussain were nabbed on Saturday morning after a brief chase, said DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur.

On their instance, Shamshad and Waseem were held.

Criminal history

The police claimed to have recovered ₹2 lakh, three luxury cars, one country-made pistol with 41 live cartridges from their possession, Mr. Thakur added. Ali was involved in 11 cases, while Hussain and Amir in two cases each. Shamshad was involved in a case of Arms Act, the police added.

No lead in Madhu Vihar killing, over 30 criminals questioned

Efforts on to trace assailants' bike

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Even after questioning over 30 people, the police are yet to find a lead in the murder of a 59-year-old woman in east Delhi's Madhu Vihar, the police said on Sunday. She was shot dead by bike-borne assailants on Saturday.

An officer said they have obtained 20 CCTVs from the possible escape routes taken by the two assailants after the murder.

"We have questioned the people who hold criminal records to get a clue in the case. CCTVs are being scanned," the officer added.

The incident took place when the woman was driving her husband to Max Hospital in Vaishali for his dialysis. "In a CCTV footage

near the crime spot, two men on a black bike can be seen opening fire at the woman. We are tracing the motorbike. It could be the robbers, who live in Ghaziabad and operate in Delhi," added the officer.

'Act of desperation'

The motive of murder will be clear only after the accused are nabbed, the police said, adding it could be an act of desperation after a failed robbery attempt.

The victim, Usha Gupta from Radhey Shyam Park Extension, worked as assistant manager at New India Insurance company.

A murder case has been registered and teams are probing all angles, including personal enmity, the police added.

Minors held for stabbing boy to death

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two juveniles have been apprehended for allegedly killing a 16-year-old boy over some monetary dispute in Nabi Karim on Sunday, the police said.

After the incident, the victim was rushed to a hospital by his friend, who was also there at that time of incident, a senior officer said. The boy was declared brought dead at the hospital. The juveniles said the victim used to often ask them for money, the police added.

Landlord kills woman over 'theft'

Accused, his wife, son and help arrested, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 44-year-old woman was beaten to death allegedly by her landlord and his family members over suspicion of theft in south Delhi's Mehrauli, the police said on Sunday.

Satish Pahwa (54), his wife, son Pankaj (29) and their help Kamlesh have been arrested, they said. Manju Goyal worked as a cook at Satish's residence. The victim's brother, Mahesh Jindal, called the police on Saturday informing them about the incident.

On Saturday morning, Jindal's wife received a call from Pahwa, who accused Manju



Manju Goyal.
*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of theft, the police said. Jindal rushed to Pahwa's residence and found that his sister was beaten up. He then got her to his house when she complained of chest pain.

He then called a doctor at his home but Manju succumbed to injuries, the police

said. "Her body has been sent to AIIMS mortuary for a post-mortem. The accused have been arrested under IPC Section 302 [murder]," said DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur.

No money found

The accused said they suspected that Manju had stolen ₹47,000 from the house. No money was found with the victim, the police said. The victim has bruises on her body, said an officer, adding that medical report is awaited to ascertain the cause of death. Manju is survived by two children.

Women allege molestation by group at resto-pub; probe on

FIR lodged; victims post incident on social media

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three women were allegedly molested by a group of men at a resto-bar in south Delhi's Greater Kailash, the police said on Sunday.

The complainant posted her ordeal on social media in which she alleged that how she and her friends were harassed and obscene gestures were passed at them with no one helping them.

"Two men sat behind our table and one of them rested his arm on my chair. I moved my chair as his arm was very close to her head. At doing this the other man sitting with

him pushed my chair very aggressively, to which I went flying ahead [sic]," the complainant wrote in her social media post.

The incident took place at 10.30 p.m. and the men left the bar when the women informed the police, said officials. DCP (South) Atul Thakur said the complainant alleged that the accused had made obscene comments after they had an argument.

"We have registered an FIR under IPC Section 354 [molestation] against unknown persons. We have obtained CCTV footage to ascertain the identity of the accused," the officer added.

Criminals open fire at policemen, flee

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three criminals travelling in a car opened fire at a police team outside Akshardham metro station during a chase, said officials on Sunday.

At 10.45 a.m., a team from Mandawali police station laid a trap to nab a gang, which dupes people of their belongings near Akshardham metro station on the pretext of offering them a ride. "Trap was laid after we got complaints from people

stating that they were robbed by a few men travelling in a white car outside Akshardham metro station," said DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh.

"There was an exchange of fire. No policemen were injured," Mr. Singh said, adding that the team chased the accused towards Gandhi Nagar but they managed to escape.

"A case has been registered against the suspects under relevant Sections of IPC," added Mr. Singh.

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CITY MATTERS

The infamous garbage hills of Delhi – at Okhla, Bhalswa and Ghazipur – will soon be “biomined” in order to have them cleared.

The landfills are proposed to be dug up and the garbage, after processing, would either be recycled, or sent to fill up the abandoned Bhatti Mines on the border of south Delhi, or be used as road construction material. But without clarity on the toxicity levels of what will be dug up and sent to the mines, there remains a risk of contaminating a whole new area, especially if done without adequate safeguards.

A study by researchers at IIT-Delhi, recently published in the Journal of Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste – ‘Leachate Characteristics of Aged Soil-Like Material from MSW dumps: Sustainability of Land-fill Mining’ – tackles exactly this question. Through multiple mined samples from three landfills in different parts of India, including the one at Okhla, the study determines the presence of dangerous levels of toxicity in the leachate (dark-coloured liquid produced when water seeps through garbage) produced from such excavated and processed landfill material.

The exercise of biomining and bioremediating the landfills was ordered by the National Green Tribunal in July. Based on the reported success of similar work carried out by the Indore Municipal Corporation at its landfill site, the tribunal instructed the three municipal corporations of Delhi to begin the project on their landfills by October 1. And finish clearing them within a year.

The cost of carrying out the work at all three sites, estimated at ₹250 crore by the court, has been set aside in an escrow account. The NGT has instructed that this amount would be forfeited if satisfactory progress is not shown within six months.

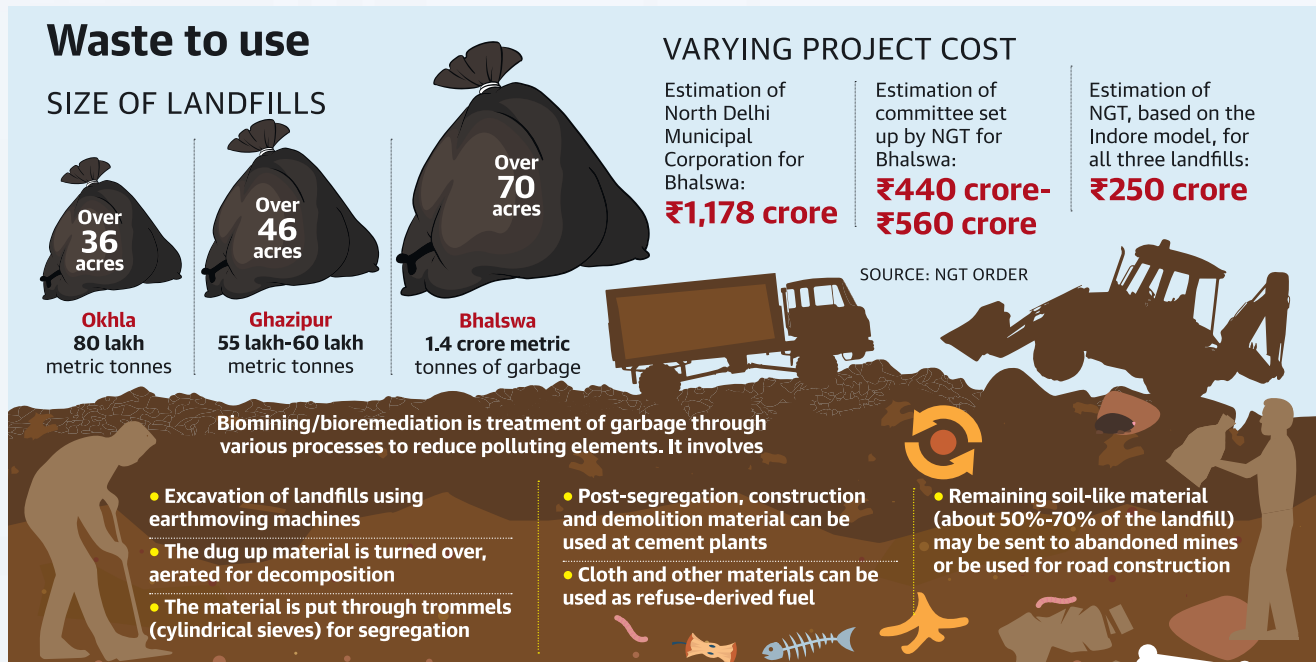
‘Capping’ ruled out

While passing the order, the NGT cited multiple reports of groundwater pollution, fire breakouts, festering of unhygienic conditions and an increase in air pollution caused by such landfills across the country. Taking cognisance of the hazards of such dump sites on public health and the environment, it was determined that they must be cleared at the earliest. To this end, the tribunal rejected the alternative of an engineered “capping” of the landfills.

According to the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control



The trommel machine being installed at Ghazipur landfill. • PRASHANT SONI



Board, presented to the NGT, “Capping of dump sites was not advisable as it would lead to generation of more leachate and methane gas which would further contaminate the already heavily contaminated groundwater.” Such capping could only be allowed in the complete absence of potential of biomining and bioremediation, the NGT observed.

The Indore example

The case of the Indore Municipal Corporation, which had reportedly cleared 15 lakh metric tonnes of a landfill site within one year through biomining, was cited to recommend the same. Asad Warsi, who assisted in the Indore model and presented the case to the tribunal, explained the process thus: the material after being excavated was put through trommels (a large sieve tube) to segregate it. Construction and demolition material thus separated was sent to cement plants, while others like cloth and plastic were used as refuse-derived fuel. The remaining soil-like material was spread out over the area of the landfill.

While multiple studies have shown that such soil-like material constitutes 50%-60% of the landfill, in terms of volume it

would be only about 30%, Mr. Warsi claimed.

The project carried out in Indore was also used to recommend similar works in Ahmedabad and Gurugram. However, the scale of work to be carried out in Delhi, where the three landfills have a combined capacity of 2.8 crore metric tonnes of garbage, spread over 152 acres of land, and the plan to fill the abandoned mines to attempt afforestation would be a first of its kind, said Mr. Warsi, who has been roped in as a consultant by the Delhi civic bodies.

‘Safeguards needed’

As part of the study, various tests for toxicity were performed on leachate produced in a lab from soil-like material, which was dried, mixed and screened after being from collected from landfills in Hyderabad, Delhi and Kadapa. Results of these tests were compared with water passed through regular soil, collected from 5 km around the landfill. The study showed that heavy metal concentration was up to 96% higher

in the soil-like material. Other characteristics and elements such as hardness, calcium, magnesium, sulfates, chlorides, bromides, organic matter, alkalinity and ammoniacal nitrogen were all found to be in much higher concentration.

“We can expect that about 20% of the landfill will probably be toxic,” Mr. Warsi conceded. It would perhaps also be laden with heavy metals given the size of the city and the age of the landfills, he added. While the oldest landfill at Ghazipur has been operational since 1984, the one at Bhalswa has been operational since 1993 and the one at Okhla since 1994.

A lot of unchecked hazardous material not supposed to be dumped at landfills may have found its way here, he explained. This would affect the toxicity of the soil-like material which would be derived from the landfills. But to make sure it doesn’t contaminate the mine it is shifted to, safeguards such as sandwiching the material between layers of soil and geosynthetic clay liners would be undertaken, he said.

However, the quality of these liners, the difficulty of laying them inside a mine and the risk of leachate collecting at the bottom of the pit over time would have to be kept in mind, said experts.

Apart from this, Mr. Warsi also suggested that certain varieties of trees could be planted over the site to absorb toxic material. However, here too, the level of penetration of the roots into the soil and their ability to absorb heavy metals will have to be considered. In any case, Mr. Warsi said that the solution with the least environmentally hazardous impact had to be chosen.

While such techniques, possibly unaccounted for costs, may be deployed to safely dispose of the waste in the country’s capital, similar safeguards will also have to be kept in mind while dealing with biomining exercises set to start across the country. The NGT in its order has also directed all municipal corporations in the country to carry out similar projects, starting November 1, one month after the work commences in Delhi.

INTERVIEW

‘Reuse of contaminated material biggest challenge’

Study by research group at IIT-Delhi says contaminants may affect subsoil and groundwater if not treated cautiously

As Delhi’s civic bodies prepare to biomine their landfill sites, a research group at IIT-Delhi – professors Manoj Datta, G.V. Ramana, T.R. Sreekrishnan and research scholars Mohit Somani and Garima Gupta – working in the areas of geo-environment and biochemical engineering, offer their view on the project in an email interview to Sidharth Ravi. Excerpts:

What are some of the difficulties that might come up during a biomining exercise and what would be their possible consequences?

■ Biomining is an appealing solution as it offers the option of progressive reduction in height of waste dumps and their eventual disappearance. A small part of the recovered material can be used for recycling or generating energy. The bulk [more than 50% to 60%] of the segregated material produced by biomining looks like soil and gravel. Unfortunately, they contain several contaminants which were present in the original waste, even though the waste has undergone biodegradation as well as washing, due to infiltration of rainwater over the years. Reuse or disposal of this ‘contaminated soil-like material’ is the biggest challenge. In several countries, this material, often referred to as ‘secondary soil’, have specific guidelines for their off-site applications.

What are the findings of your research on leachate characteristics of ‘soil-like material’ from Indian landfills?

■ Our study on four-five Indian dump sites has shown that the soil-like material from mining of MSW [municipal solid waste] releases brownish leachate when rainwater percolates through it. The leachate has high soluble salts and elevated heavy metals in comparison to the local soil. These findings are supported by results of overseas researchers.

If excavated material is used without further processing or use of liners what would happen?

■ If the soil-like material is spread in thin layers, say a few inches or less than 30 cm, its impact is likely to be minimal. However, if it is placed in thickness of several metres, as in filling low-lying areas or embankments, or tens of metres, as in deep-mined

pits, the contaminants can affect the subsoil as well as the groundwater through colouration, increase in salinity and elevation of heavy metals. In such cases, the importance of liner systems, cover systems and leachate collection systems cannot be under emphasised.

What kind of difficulties may be faced in filling a mine with excavated landfill material?

■ The base of deep pits, created by mining in the past, is close to the groundwater table. The fractures and fissures in the base rock act like small conduits interconnected to the groundwater. Placing excavated and segregated soil-like material from landfills on the base of these pits, in close proximity of the water table, without polluting it, is a daunting task. Single liners such as clay, geomembranes or geosynthetic clay liners alone would not be enough to stop leakages. Double composite liner systems, with leachate collection as well as leakage detection systems (similar to those used at the base of hazardous waste landfills) would be desirable. Placing such liners along the steep side slopes of the pits as well as along the jagged base of the pit would be complex and expensive.

Any other observation on the exercise being undertaken by the municipal corporations of Delhi...

■ Biomining is a slow process involving the use of rotating screens (trommels) to segregate the material. A critical step relates to drying of the wet excavated waste by spreading and aeration (sun-drying) prior to screening. This is a natural process which takes time. Trommel screening of dry waste is desirable for good quality of segregation, but it produces dust. If the waste is not dried adequately, it forms lumps and clods which clog the screens of trommels. A fine balance is needed to prevent dust emissions or the entire operation has to be performed under a gigantic cover. The process can be hastened by using several trommel screening plants concurrently, if adequate land area is available. But it is still likely to take several years to process the entire waste at any large dump site of 50 m height, keeping in view the fact that operations are interrupted during the monsoon season.



A view of the Bhalswa landfill. • SUSMIL KUMAR VERMA

Call to shift police stations away from landfills

‘Two officers died due to lung infection’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Police officials have sought shifting of Ghazipur and Bhalswa police stations to “less polluted” areas, saying the smoke emanating from the landfills is harmful for health.

They claimed that two police officers of the Ghazipur police station died due to lung infection from 2013-17.

While Ghazipur police station falls in the east district, Bhalswa Dairy police station falls under the outer north district of the Delhi

police administrative arrangement.

“We have written to the police headquarters and asked them to shift the police station from its current place to a less polluted area,” said a senior police officer of the east district.

However, sources at the police headquarters said that the shifting of police stations is not a feasible idea.

Sources said government bodies give them land and they cannot have a police station outside the area of its jurisdiction.

Encroachments on South City-I footpaths leave no space for pedestrians

Residents go door-to-door, request bungalow owners to remove encroachments; they also plan to hand over a petition to authorities

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Forty-year-old software engineer Nidhee Pathak, a mother of two, had difficulty dropping her children to school every morning. Though the two study at a school a few hundred meters away from their house in The Palms, the footpaths in the South City-I, the township, are encroached upon leaving little space for them to walk. Many parents in the group housing society face similar problem.

With authorities failing to take action, Ms. Pathak, along with 60 other residents, including women and children, decided to take it



Residents implore bungalow owners to leave at least four feet wide space for pedestrians. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

upon themselves to work out a solution to this. They went from door-to-door on Unitech Patio Road in South City-I on Sunday morning, making a request to the bun-

galow-dwellers to remove encroachments along the road and give enough space for pedestrians to walk.

The residents also plan to hand over a petition to the lo-

cal authorities concerned.

“While the footpaths in the township are encroached upon by those residing in bungalows by fencing the green area outside their house and by parking their cars, there is no place left for the pedestrians to walk. It is difficult for the parents to even walk up to the school in the neighbourhood to drop their kids. Residents cannot even walk up to the HUDA City Centre metro station, which is just a few meters away. There are no speed breakers in the area and the motorists drive at a menacing speed posing danger to the pedestrians. A child and a

vendor were killed and a woman was injured in an accident recently,” said Ms. Pathak.

Mixed response

The residents implored the bungalow owners to leave at least four feet wide space adjacent to the road for pedestrians. However, they got a mixed response.

Amit Tambi, 48, who was also part of the campaign, said that many were not aware that they were causing problems to the pedestrians unwittingly and agreed to cooperate. But some expressed their inability saying that they did not have space to

park their cars other than the footpaths. Mr. Tambi said that he had been staying in Gurugram for more than a decade and the problem of encroachment on footpaths was rampant.

Associate Director, Nagarro, Sarika Panda, an urban planning expert, said that walking was the largest mode of transport in Gurugram but pedestrians were the most vulnerable as they formed the highest proportion of people who got killed every year in road traffic crashes which was around 200 people. She said that it was time to give them their due share in infrastructure design.

DELHI ☀️ Timings		
MONDAY, SEPT. 23		
☀️ RISE	06:10	🌃 SET 18:17
🌧️ RISE	00:00	🌃 SET 14:13
TUESDAY, SEPT. 24		
☀️ RISE	06:10	🌃 SET 18:16
🌧️ RISE	00:56	🌃 SET 15:09
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25		
☀️ RISE	06:11	🌃 SET 18:15
🌧️ RISE	02:00	🌃 SET 16:01

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	30	24
Safdarjang	30	24
Palam	28	22

Delhi Palam Today
31°C A cloudy sky lies ahead. Day will be a little warm. Short spells of light rain are likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C Significant rise in temperatures are likely. Day will be warm with a partly cloudy sky.

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Handpump water proves fatal for three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHHINDWARA (M.P.)

Two women and a four-year-old girl died and 50 others took ill after drinking water from a handpump in Chanhia Kala village in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district on Saturday evening, an official said.

Those who drank from the handpump complained of uneasiness, vomiting and loose motions. Additional Collector Rajesh Shahi said, adding that 25 people are still admitted to hospital while the rest have been discharged.

"Ramauli Usrethe, 80, Meera, 50, and child Rishina Evanati died after drinking water from a handpump located in village Chanhia Kala village in Pindaraikala on Saturday. Water may have been contaminated," he said.

THE HINDU
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2 policemen taken off gang-rape probe in U.P.

Duo 'misbehaved' with complainant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KAUSHAMBI

Two policemen have been taken off from the investigation of a gang-rape case of a Dalit girl in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambi district and sent to police lines over allegations that they misbehaved with the complainant, an officer said on Sunday.

The 16-year-old was allegedly gang-raped on Saturday at a village under the Sarai Akil police station limits and the accused also recorded a video of the act, Superintendent of Police Pradeep Gupta said.

He said the villagers accused the police of "misbehaving with the aggrieved side", following which Sub-Inspector Deepak Gupta and Head Constable Ramnath Yadav were sent to police lines.

JJP sounds the poll bugle in Haryana, holds rally in Rohtak

Party blasts the BJP government in the State for 'non-performance'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Jannayak Janata Party, the breakaway faction of the Indian National Lok Dal, on Sunday sounded the poll bugle for the upcoming Assembly elections in Haryana by holding a "Jan Samman Divas" rally in Rohtak to mark the birth anniversary of its ideologue, late Devi Lal.

Hitting out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party government, former Lok Sabha MP and JJP's senior leader Dushyant Chautala accused the party of "befooling" the people of the State for the last five years by failing to fulfil any of its electoral promises.

Exhorting the people to throw out the "arrogant" BJP government, Mr. Chautala al-



BJP befooling the people of the State for the last five years by failing to fulfil any of its electoral promises

DUSHYANT CHAUTALA
Senior JJP leader

leged Mr. Chautala. He urged the people to give the JJP a chance to serve and promised to ensure all-round development of the State.

After the split in the Indian National Lok Dal, the JJP has been trying to claim the legacy of its founder, Chaudhary Devi Lal. The INLD saw a split in 2018 after a bitter power struggle between brothers Ajay Chautala and Abhay Chautala. Amid the family feud, Ajay and his son Dushyant Chautala floated the JJP.

leged that under its regime all sections of society have been suffering, be it the youth, farmers, women, businessmen or others.

'Give JJP a chance'
"The BJP has hit the people hard by bringing strict punishment under the new traffic rules, women are not feeling safe due to high rate of crime against them, old-aged are not getting pensions," al-

Man beaten to death for 'stealing water pump'

FIR filed against 10 in Jhalawar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOTA

A 40-year-old Dalit man was beaten to death for allegedly stealing a water pump in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Ghatoli area on Saturday morning, when a 60-year-old man, his two sons, and some other unidentified people thrashed Dhulichand Meena of Mewakheda village, alleging that he stole a water pump from their fields, Station House Officer Nainuram Meena said.

When Dhulichand was on his way to a nearby village, Purilal Tanwar, his sons, Devi Singh (23) and Mohan (20) and the other men confronted him, the SHO said.

He said a heated exchange between Dhulichand and the group of men over the stolen hand pump soon turned violent and he was

beaten up badly. Dhulichand's father reached the spot and took his injured son home. Later, his condition deteriorated and he was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, the SHO said.

He said preliminary investigation revealed that Tanwar and his sons had on Friday complained about the theft to Dhulichand's father, who reprimanded his son and asked Tanwar to lodge a police complaint against him.

Booked for murder

A case under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC and the SC/ST Act has been registered against Tanwar, his sons and seven unidentified men, the SHO said.

Dhulichand's body was handed over to his family after a post-mortem.

Life as usual



A farmer carries paddy after harvesting rice in Budgam district of Kashmir on Sunday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Gangster's aides paraded in undergarments by police

'Would instil faith of people in law enforcement agencies'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A group of 13 alleged accomplices of fugitive Haryana gangster Vikram Gujar alias Papla were handcuffed and paraded in undergarments through the roads of Alwar district's Behror town by the police on Sunday. The police, who are yet to arrest Vikram, claimed that the parade would instil faith among the public about the capability of law enforcement agencies.

Vikram, 28, had fled from the Behror police station on September 6 in a daredevil act, when more than a dozen persons stormed into the building and opened indiscriminate fire at the lock-up. He was earlier detained for questioning after the police intercepted his SUV and seized ₹31.90 lakh from him

during night patrolling.

Police have announced a reward of ₹1 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Vikram, who remains at large. During the raids in different towns and villages of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and the National Capital Region in the last two weeks, the Special Operations Group of Rajasthan police has arrested about 20 alleged accomplices of Vikram.

A large police team, led by Bhiwadi Superintendent of Police Amandeep Singh Kapoor, paraded 13 of the arrested persons – handcuffed and in undergarments – from the government higher secondary school grounds to the police station through the roads in Behror. Each of them carried a reward of ₹50,000 on his head.

Eyewitness accounts said

while the police officers were trying to get clues from the suspected criminals about their escape routes and hideouts, the crowd which gathered on either side of the road clapped, ridiculed the accused and took pictures and made video recordings of the parade on their mobile phones.

Large police team

A large number of armed policemen and the personnel from SOG, Quick Response Team and Anti-Terrorism Squad formed part of the parade. SOG Additional SP Karan Sharma and Behror Deputy SP Atul Sahu also walked in the parade.

As the parade's videos went viral on the social media, several persons expressed outrage over the act of police.

Properties of absconding MLA attached

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ARA (BIHAR)

The police in Bihar's Bhojpur district on Sunday attached the properties of RJD MLA Arun Yadav, who is absconding in connection with a case of sexual abuse of a minor girl, a senior police officer said.

The process of attaching the RJD MLA's property at his native village Lasarhi began this morning amid tight security, the officer said.

"The properties belonged to MLA Arun Yadav located at his native village Lasarhi were attached today," Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations) Nitin Kumar said.

The move comes days after Sessions Judge R.K. Singh, who holds the charge of special PCO court, issued the NBW against Yadav following an application filed by police.

70 IAS officers transferred in Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has transferred 70 IAS officers, including 10 district collectors, according to an official order.

The Officer on Special Duty to former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was among those transferred on Saturday night.

Additional Chief Secretary, Administrative Reforms, Ravishankar Srivastava has been made chairman of the Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation.

Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Subodh Agrawal has been given MSME dept. in addition to his existing departments while principal secretary, MSME, Alok was transferred as MD of RSRTC.

Giriraj rebukes official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEGUSARAI (BIHAR)

Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Sunday gave a dressing down to a government official in his Lok Sabha constituency here for apparently showing reluctance to alight from a vehicle while speaking with him.

On Sunday morning, while he was travelling on

foot, accompanied by supporters, the car of Nishant, Sub Divisional Officer of Teghra, pulled up close by.

When Mr. Singh addressed the official, he replied from within the car.

The BJP leader got sore and remarked, "Why would he alight from his vehicle. He is a babu. I greet him with folded hands."

5 killed in Rajasthan accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

Five persons were killed and ten others injured when a bus in which they were travelling collided with a truck in Ajmer district of Rajasthan on Sunday, police said.

The incident happened in Mangliawas area.

Those injured have been admitted to a hospital in Beawar town, police said.

Efforts are on to ascertain the identity of the deceased persons, they said.

New research at Nalanda varsity to raise farmers' income

Assured irrigation from water stored beneath the surface during high rainfall and waterlogging

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

At Rajgir-based Nalanda University in Bihar, a new research entitled "Aquifer Storage & Recovery for Sustainable Agriculture" (ASRA) is being carried out by the School of Ecology and Environment Studies to create a model of "Aquifer Storage and Recovery" (ASR) technology using floodwaters to provide an opportunity to farmers to raise their income.

The research is being undertaken with support from

the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research.

The model aims to help farmers of south Bihar to raise their income through agriculture and allied activities with the help of assured irrigation from reuse of water stored beneath the surface during episodes of high rainfall, run-offs and water logging.

"The project will benefit farmers by making them co-participants in the process...widespread recharge activities during the rainy season

over several years is likely to build up an underground water bank...ASRA research will reveal if there is a net recharge of aquifers and if there is a positive impact on the natural water systems related to underground aquifers," said a Nalanda University note.

'Avant-garde courses'

"Innovative research is the only way forward for a global institution such as Nalanda. Our effort therefore has been to have avant-garde courses at the University and

research aimed at building new regional structures with global peace and growth in the direction of development through emerging new research," said Prof. Sunaina Singh, Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Aquifer map

The university research is essentially focussed on converging water solutions that primarily address the irrigation needs of an agrarian community but could also provide drinking water security with appropriate safe

guards.

The project would also deliver a comprehensive aquifer map for recharge and estimation of the potential injection of surface water into the selected aquifer.

"A model for implementation, including awareness, local capacity and chain of facilities, will be available in a manual to ensure sustainability of the technology and wider adoption in the region in areas with similar hydrological characteristics," the University note on the research further said.

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NRC-excluded Gurkhas in Assam to shun tribunals

'Govt. has no right to try Indians in such tribunals meant for foreigners'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Gurkhas excluded from Assam's updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) will not go to the Foreigners' Tribunals to prove their citizenship, an umbrella organisation of the community said on Sunday.

Defamation cases

The Bharatiya Gorkha Parishad (BGP), representing 10.5 million members of the community across India, justified its stand saying the government had no right to try Indians in such tribunals meant for foreigners.

"The Gurkhas of Assam will not go to the Foreigners' Tribunals to prove their citizenship, as being tried in such tribunals is an insult to their identity as Indians. We can file defamation cases against the system of challenging the citizenship of Gurkhas and Nepali-speaking people," organisation's president Sukhman Moktan said.

Based on data provided by its local units across the 33 districts of Assam, the BGP said more than 1 lakh

This is an attempt of a few vested interests within the system to disrespect Indian Gurkhas

SUKHMAN MOKTAN
Bharatiya Gorkha Parishad president

official residence on Park Street. Since the Calcutta High Court withdrew the protection granted to Mr. Kumar from the CBI taking any coercive action against him, officials of the probe agency mounted the operation to trace him.

Mr. Kumar is currently the State CID's Additional Director General.

Teams of the special crime branch of the CBI had visited the office of the CID at Bhabani Bhavan and various parts of the city to ascertain the whereabouts of Mr. Kumar on Saturday. The Alipore District and Sessions court had on Saturday rejected his anticipatory bail plea.

Mr. Kumar is alleged to

Gurkhas had been excluded from the final NRC published on August 31. A total of 19.06 lakh people out of 3.3 crore applicants have been kept out of it.

Mr. Moktan said the BGP leaders had been touring Assam to meet the NRC victims and those marked D or doubtful voters and their descendants.

Exemption notice

"The NRC guidelines say the Gurkhas whose citizenship has been challenged need to go to the Foreigners' Tribunals despite a notification of exemption by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This is an attempt of a few vested interests within the system to

disrespect Indian Gurkhas who are actually original inhabitants as is proved by our historically and mythologically recorded presence since centuries," Mr. Moktan said.

BGP secretary general Nirmal Kumar Pun said: "No Indian Gurkha should be left out of the NRC. As a vigilant civil society organisation, we will play a vital role as it is a judiciary monitored process."

Nanda Kirati Dewan, BGP's national secretary, said the organisation had asked the State government to form an empowered committee comprising MHA officials to dispose of the NRC-excluded cases.

CBI intensifies search for Rajeev Kumar

Teams visited Alipore Bodyguard Lines, his official residence on Park Street

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

CBI officials on Sunday intensified their operations to locate former city police commissioner Rajeev Kumar who has been evading summons in connection with the multi-crore Saradha ponzi scam.

Separate teams of CBI officials visited Alipore Bodyguard Lines and Mr. Kumar's

official residence on Park Street.

Since the Calcutta High Court withdrew the protection granted to Mr. Kumar from the CBI taking any coercive action against him, officials of the probe agency mounted the operation to trace him.

Mr. Kumar is currently the State CID's Additional Director General.

have suppressed evidence

crucial for the investigation into the scam. The State police has informed the CBI that Mr. Kumar is on leave from September 9 to 25.

The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people of ₹2,500 crore promising higher rates of return on their investments.

Lightning kills three in Malda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALDA (W.B.)

Three persons were killed and two injured in separate incidents of lightning strike in West Bengal's Malda district on Sunday, a senior police officer said.

Superintendent of Police Alok Rajoria said Hussain

Alia of Paranpur Upotola village, Anarul Haque of Chunakhali Parampur village and Sk Hassain of Chandpur Karbala village died when lightning struck them while they were working in the field. Two persons were injured in Chandpur village, the SP said.

Scholarship scheme expanded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A group of students from Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management and National Institutes of Technology have expanded the scope of their "career-shaping" examination and scholarship to urban centres in the Northeast.

The group from these three institutes had started the "one nation, one exam" National Level Common Entrance Examination (NLCEE) for Classes IX to XII this year. About 22,000 students appeared for the first exam on March 31 conducted at 62 centres across India.

"This time, we have included all tier 2 and tier 3 cities in the Northeast as our examination centres for better penetration and opportunity to underprivileged students in geographically-challenged areas. We are also offering an additional scholarship of up to ₹60,000 to deserving students, besides an opportunity to visit research and development centres such as Indian Space Research Organisation and IITs for 3-15 days," NLCEE's overall coordinator Ullas M.S., an NIT Karnataka product, told *The Hindu*.

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THE HINDU

NDA will get three-fourth majority: Shah

BJP president does not name Shiv Sena in speech; no meeting with Uddhav

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Visiting Mumbai, a day after announcement of Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Amit Shah on Sunday chose not to meet Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray maintaining secrecy over whether or not both parties will contest the election as an alliance.

Addressing a public rally in Goregaon, Mr. Shah announced that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis would continue at the post even after the polls. The BJP president went on to say that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would get three-fourth majority in the Assembly of 288 seats. While his reference to the NDA has sent mix signals, Mr. Shah did not mention Shiv Sena in his speech. This is being viewed as a snub to the Sena which is projecting Aaditya Thackeray, son of party chief Uddhav Thackeray, as its nominee for the CM's post.

"The Fadnavis government worked alongside Narendra Modi government at the Centre. The Modi government



Shadow of Kashmir?: Union Home Minister Amit Shah's face is shadowed by his fists as he gestures during a speech at a rally in Mumbai on Sunday. ■ ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

got a second term and I am clear voters have made up their minds to give Fadnavis another term," Mr. Shah said.

However, throughout the day Mr. Shah did not hold any political meeting either with the BJP leaders or with Mr. Thackeray, as speculated. It was widely believed that the meeting between both the leaders would iron out any wrinkles in their

partnership and an alliance between two parties would be finalised.

The Sena chief has already said that he is hopeful of an alliance with the BJP while Mr. Fadnavis too has said that both parties will contest as part of a coalition. Mr. Thackeray has also said that the seat-sharing formula for the Assembly polls was decided by himself, Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Shah before

Lok Sabha polls. Sena's Rajya Sabha MP Anil Desai on Friday said that the Sena would accept the number of seats given to it by the BJP.

Intense speculation is continuing on the number of seats each part would contest, with the latest version being BJP would contest 162 seats with Sena contesting on 126. The smaller parties would be accommodated from BJP's quota.

Senior Sena leader Divakar Raote had said that party expects 50:50 seat sharing formula and failing to do so would result in the breaking of the alliance. The BJP however has retorted by saying those not part of the seat-sharing talks should not get involved.

J&K homes would have had gold roofs'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

People in Jammu & Kashmir would have had gold-roofed homes if previous governments spent all the funds released by the Centre for its, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday, adding, "the Indian government has spent ₹ 2.27 lakh crore so far on J&K."

Shashi Tharoor slams BJP for surge in mob lynchings

'Promotion of Hindi, Hindutva and Hindustan dangerous'

SHOUMUJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor slammed the BJP for the surge in mob-lynching deaths since the party's ascendancy following the 2014 elections and said its idea of Hinduism was a "narrow political ideology" with no connection to its beliefs.

Addressing a session organised by the All India Professional Congress (AIPC) in the city, Mr. Tharoor, criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his push to impose Hindi as a common language over regional ones, saying Mr. Shah's pitch for "one nation one language" was inimical for unity.

Detailing the number of mob-lynching deaths since 2014, Mr. Tharoor said: "What have we seen in the past six years? It started with the killing of [IT professional] Mohsin Shaikh in Pune. Then Mohammad Akhlaq [in Dadri in Uttar Pradesh] was killed on suspicion of slaughtering his cow and consuming beef."

Recounting the grisly killings of Tabrez Ansari and Junaid Khan, the MP said: "Is this our Bharat? Is this what Hindu Dharma says? I am a Hindu but not of this kind... Further, victims are being forced to chant 'Jai Sri Ram'. It is an insult to the Hindu Dharma. It is an insult to Lord Rama that people are being killed using his name."

Remarking that it was appalling that one election result (BJP's 2014 Lok Sabha win) gave so much power to such elements to do anything and kill anyone, he ob-



Shashi Tharoor, MP, addressing a session at All India Professional Congress in Pune on Sunday. ■ MANDAR TANNU

served that Pehlu Khan (who was killed by cow vigilantes in Alwar in Rajasthan) was lynched despite having a licence to carry cows for dairy farming.

Asked about Mr. Shah's pitch to impose Hindi as a common language, Mr. Tharoor said the three-language formula that had worked so well for the past 70 years ought not to be tinkered with today.

"There was a discussion in the Constituent Assembly on this issue [of Hindi as a common language]... at the time, many opposed this move owing to the wide range of languages spoken in our country. By the BJP's proposed imposition, for those whom Hindi is not their mother-tongue will feel disadvantaged and national unity will suffer," he said.

He said 60% or more of the parliamentarians today speak in Hindi. "But those who cannot speak it must be made to feel that India is their country as well where they will be heard," he said, adding that English had proven useful as a "linking language" in transcending communication barriers.

In the event that Hindi was decreed as the language to be used for all administrative and bureaucratic purposes, Mr. Tharoor observed that non-Hindi speakers, especially those in the southern States, would feel like second-class citizens compelled to master a second language just to know what their rights were.

"We have been trying to make the BJP understand these problems over the common language imposition issue both within Parliament and without, but they simply aren't willing to even listen," he said.

Asserting that the BJP's intransigence over the issue was the main reason why the party had failed to make any significant electoral gains in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, he said the BJP's perpetual promotion of its idea of 'Hindi, Hindutva and Hindustan' was "dangerous" for the country's unity.

Refuting suggestions of a crisis at the top, he said the Congress was gearing up for crucial State elections as the reins were now firmly in the hands of its president Sonia Gandhi.

Elections are in Maharashtra, not J&K: Opposition

'BJP focusing campaign on Article 370 to hide failures in State'

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Opposition on Sunday said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) should understand that Assembly elections have been announced in Maharashtra and not in

Jammu & Kashmir.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with the BJP leaders are harping about the Kashmir issue. Shah came to Mumbai to give a lecture about the decision on withdrawal of Article 370. The leaders of BJP need to be reminded that the elections are for Maharashtra and not for Kashmir. Amit Shah should go to Kashmir if he wants to talk about Article

370," said Maharashtra Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant.

"Maharashtra's debts have doubled in the last five years. Farmer suicides have tripled. The number of small and medium enterprises that closed down in the State has quadrupled. Unemployment has increased ten-fold. Corruption has increased by a hundred-fold. The lies of this government have increased a thousand times.

BJP leaders should talk about this," said Mr. Sawant.

Mumbai unit president of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Nawab Malik, said that the issue of Article 370 has been raised to hide BJP's failure as a ruling party in Maharashtra. "If Prime Minister Modi gave Kashmir to India, then BJP should explain where were they running the government with Mehbooba Mufti? Amit Shah says not even a single bullet has been

fired in Kashmir, but he does not tell us that the area is under curfew," said Mr. Malik.

The NCP leader said that the absolute failure of the BJP to address requirements of citizens of Maharashtra and key issues such as unemployment, farmer suicides and failure in flood management has resulted in the BJP focusing its campaign on Article 370. "This is nothing but an attempt to hide failures," he said.

Extended monsoon likely to linger till Oct.

Weather conditions not conducive over west Rajasthan for withdrawal to begin

TANVI DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Monsoon of 2019 has been very different. After a two-week delay in arrival, its withdrawal from Mumbai and Maharashtra is also delayed and is likely to stretch into October. Light showers are expected to continue till then even as the days are getting sunny in Mumbai.

This year, monsoon arrived in Kerala a week late and in Mumbai two weeks later than the projected onset date. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) declared on June 25 that monsoon had arrived in Mumbai and entire Maharashtra.

So far, Mumbai has received 3603.7mm rainfall, or 143.35% of annual average. In the 24 hours leading up to 8.30 a.m. on Sunday, Mumbai received only 0.8mm rainfall. There was some scattered rain in Mumbai on Sunday. However, maximum temperatures remained on the warmer side, with Sunday recording 33.3 degrees Celsius. This is three degrees above normal.

Normally, withdrawal of monsoon starts around Sep-



In this monsoon season, Mumbai has so far received 3603.7 mm of rainfall, or 143.35% of its annual average. ■ FILE PHOTO

tember 1 from west Rajasthan. However, that has not happened so far this season and the weather conditions are not conducive for it to happen in the next few days. Some of the conditions that meteorologists look at include, absence of rain for five days straight, increase in temperature, and reduction in humidity. IMD has forecast very light to light rains for Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Raigad until Thursday and has forecast similar daytime temperatures for Mumbai.

When asked about the withdrawal of monsoon from the State, K.S. Hosalkar, deputy director general, IMD,

said, "There is depression formed in Arabian Sea, so withdrawal will not happen for next couple of days."

Mahesh Palawat, vice-president (meteorology and climate change) at private forecaster Skymet Weather said, "Withdrawal of monsoon is delayed this season. Right now, the easterlies are still active and humidity has not reduced and therefore, the weather conditions have not built up yet in west Rajasthan for withdrawal. It may happen in first week of October following which it will cover entire India including Maharashtra. In 2011, withdrawal had happened in late Septem-

ber and in 2010, it happened in October."

Akshay Deoras, a meteorologist and Ph.D. researcher at the University of Reading, U.K., who has been tracking the monsoon closely, said, "Withdrawal from western Rajasthan is expected to commence by September 27. However, the official declaration might happen only in early October due to which monsoon's withdrawal this year will be delayed by a month from its normal date of September 1. Thereafter, we can expect a rapid withdrawal of the monsoon from parts of northwest and central India. In Maharashtra, rainfall activity will start terminating from early October and we can expect the withdrawal to start from the second week."

Meanwhile, an IMD press release issued at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday said a depression in the Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast could intensify into a deep depression in the next 12 hours, and a cyclonic storm in 24 hours. This could result in lead to light to moderate rainfall at many places with isolated heavy falls over Saurashtra and Kutch.

Getting ready for festivities



Ahead of holy days: Potters give finishing touches to earthen pots which will be in demand during the upcoming Navaratri celebrations, in Nagpur on Sunday. ■ S. SUDARSHAN

Govt. lost chance to strengthen economy 5 yrs back: Desarda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD

The NDA government had a chance to strengthen the economy five years back when the crude oil rates were low, but it could not take advantage of the situation, noted economist H.M. Desarda has said.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed for the fifth consecutive quarter in April-June 2019 to 5%, the lowest in six years. This was on the back of faltering domestic demand, with both private consumption and investment proving lacklustre.

Delivering a lecture on the 'current economic downfall – causes impacts and remedies' at the Mahatma Gandhi Mission

campus here in Maharashtra on Saturday, Mr. Desarda said in 2013, the crude oil rates were around \$ 110 per barrel.

"When the Modi-led government came to power, the crude oil prices dropped. That time, the government spent huge amounts on crude oil import to meet the petrol and diesel demands," he said

"The government could have utilised this financial gain to strengthen the employment guarantee schemes, water resource development, curbing drought and flood control. But the government could not take advantage of that situation," said the former member of the Maharashtra State Planning Board.

Mumbai zoo may get two tigers from Aurangabad

Renovation on, tigers to be exchanged for a variety of birds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD

Two tigers from Aurangabad's Siddharth Zoo will be sent to Byculla Zoo in Mumbai in exchange for a variety of birds, a senior civic official said here on Sunday.

The Siddharth Garden and Zoo, run by the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation, is being renovated and the tiger-bird exchange was decided upon due to excess number of big cats here, said Zoo Director BS Naikwade.

"We have decided to give two tigers to Mumbai's Veer Mata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan And Zoo (popularly known as Byculla Zoo) and get several species of birds from there. Two civic officials will be visiting Mumbai to complete formalities. We currently have 12 tigers," Mr. Naikwade



A tiger at the Siddharth Garden and Zoo in Aurangabad. ■ FILE PHOTO

informed.

Speaking about the renovation of the Siddharth Zoo, Mr. Naikwade said, "A cage that previously housed ele-

phants will be used by two bears that are being brought in from Hemalkasa. Leopards from the Manikdog Rescue Centre can also be brought

here." He said the cost estimation process for the renovation work, to accommodate these animals, was currently underway.

Shiv Nadar to be chief guest at RSS event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

Founder-chairman of HCL and Padma Bhushan awardee Shiv Nadar will be the chief guest at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Vijayadashmi function here on October 8, the Sangh's Nagpur Mahanagar Sangh-

chalak Rajesh Loya said on Sunday.

The annual affair, is keenly watched by political observers as the speech by the RSS chief tends to lay down the agenda for it as well as outfits affiliated to the Sangh for the year ahead.

READ
FRONTLINE
EVERY FORTNIGHT



Woman dies as Metro wall chunk falls on her
HYDERABAD
A 26-year-old woman was killed when a chunk of mortar from the Ameerpet Metro station here fell on her head on Sunday. The victim, K. Mounika, was taking shelter from rain under the Metro station. Her husband, Harikanth Reddy, has filed a complaint with the police.

SC to take up Maradu apartments' case today
KOCHI
The Kerala government is waiting to gauge the mood of the Supreme Court — which will take up the Maradu apartments case on Monday — to finalise its strategy. The SC had ordered the demolition of four complexes for violating coastal regulation zone norms.

Three Maoists killed in Vizag encounter

Extremists were holding a meet; several members injured

STAFF REPORTER VISAKHAPATNAM
Three Maoists, including two women, were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces, comprising the elite anti-Naxal force Greyhounds and the Special Police Party, near the Madigamallu-Kondajarth forest area at GK Veedhi mandal in Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday. The identity of the slain Maoists is yet to be ascertained. Several Maoists are suspected to have been injured in the incident at Gumma-revula panchayat. The security forces seized one Self-Loading Rifle (SLR), two .303 rifles, one 12 bore rifle, six kit bags and one

landmine. Sources said the dead Maoist was suspected to be Gemmela Kamesh alias Hari, a Galikonda Area Committee member, but there was no confirmation from the police.

Foundation day
The exchange of fire comes at a time when the banned CPI (Maoist) is celebrating its formation week from September 21 to 27. It was on September 23, 2018 that the then Araku Valley MLA, Kidari Sarveswara Rao, and former MLA Siveri Soma were killed by the Maoists near Livitputtu village under the Dumbriguda police station limits in the district. According to sources, the

extremists, led by senior woman leader Aruna, were conducting a meeting in the Madigamallu area. Based on credible information, the police forces rushed to the area. When the Maoists opened fire, the security forces retaliated. Many Maoists managed to escape into the forest. None of the policemen were injured in the gunfight. According to Superintendent of Police (Visakhapatnam Rural) Attada Babujee, the exchange of fire took place around 2 pm. The Greyhounds, Special Police Party and the Central Reserve Police Force had intensified combing in the Agency following the encounter, he said.

Telangana inflating surplus: CAG

Revenue surplus overstated and fiscal deficit understated, says audit report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD
The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) has found fault with the Telangana government for overstating its revenue surplus and understating fiscal deficit on account of misclassification, non-contribution to statutory funds and classifying subsidies as loans. The CAG said the State's revenue surplus, pegged at ₹3,459 crore, for the year 2017-18 was overstated by ₹3,743.74 crore while the fiscal deficit of ₹26,700 crore was understated by ₹954.6 crore. "Effectively, there was a revenue deficit of ₹284.74 crore and fiscal deficit was ₹27,654 crore," the CAG said

Greater reliance on market borrowing has led to increase in liabilities
COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL
in its State Finances Audit Report for the year ended March 2018. Further, the CAG said the fiscal deficit (₹26,700 crore) was 3.55% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) pegged at ₹7,52,230 crore, which marginally exceeded the 3.5% limit fixed by the 14th Finance Commission. The outstanding public debt to GSDP was 19%, which was within the 22.82% ceiling fixed by the finance panel. The outstanding liabilities too at 22.05% of the

GSDP was well within the prescribed limit of 25% as per the medium term fiscal policy statement of the State government, the report said. According to the report, the revenue receipts (RR) and revenue expenditure (RE) had increased during the period 2015-16 to 2017-18 even after accounting for inflation. However, the RR and RE had decreased as percentage of the GSDP.

Pat for tax collection
The growth of RR and RE decreased in 2017-18 in comparison to the preceding year and the capital expenditure, which increased in 2016-17, declined in 2017-18. The State, however, came in for praise for tax collection, with the CAG stating that the cost of collection of major taxes had decreased during the last three years, indicating greater efficiency (measured as cost of collection of tax as a percentage of tax collection). Telangana also fared favourably in its focus on development expenditure (₹84,006 crore) and capital expenditure (₹23,902 crore) compared to other general category States. The burden of committed expenditure as a percentage of revenue expenditure was steadily rising due to increase in interest payments (26% over 2016-17) and pension payment (32% over 2016-17).

Endosulfan victims send notice to Kerala

They are yet to get the SC-ordered relief of ₹5 lakh

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI
A legal notice was sent to the Kerala Chief Secretary on behalf of four minor Endosulfan victims to whom the Supreme Court had ordered the State to pay ₹5 lakh compensation. A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee had in July first week ordered the Kerala government to pay the compensation in two months to the victims, suffering the effects of the pesticide which was aerially sprayed on cashew plantations adjoining their habitations. However, the notice dated September 6 by advocate Ka-



A file photo of a protest by endosulfan victims in Thiruvananthapuram. •S. MAHINSHA

leeswaram Raj, who represented the victims in the apex court, told the Chief Secretary that it was "totally unfortunate" on the part of the State to "wilfully refuse" to pay the compensation. Non-payment of the money would lead to contempt of the Supreme Court, it said. In fact, the July order of the apex court had given the

lawyer liberty to revive the contempt action against the Kerala government. The July order had come on a contempt petition filed by the four children — Archana, Afsal, Nisha and M. Badhavi — through their natural guardians for the non-disbursement of the ₹5 lakh by the Kerala government to Endosulfan victims in viola-

'BJP will protect their interests whatever the verdict'

B.S. SATISH KUMAR BENGALURU
The Bharatiya Janata Party leadership is waiting for clarity to emerge on the issue of the disqualified MLAs contesting the Assembly bypolls as the Supreme Court takes up their petitions for hearing on Monday. According to highly placed sources in the BJP, the central leadership has taken a stand to honour its commitment. "There is no question of ignoring them [the former MLAs] even if the Supreme Court decision is not in their favour. The party will field them as candidates if they get a favourable verdict. Otherwise, we will give preference to candidates suggested by them," a prominent BJP leader said. If the court does not take



B.S. Yediyurappa

any decision sooner or if its verdict goes against them, then they are most likely to suggest the names of their family members. Some of them are likely to seek party ticket for their wives, sources said. However, there is a feeling among a section of the leaders managing the bypolls that the family members are politically not a match for

the disqualified MLAs themselves as most of them (family members) are not active in public life. But there is no choice for the party as it cannot choose its own candidates in the constituencies. Senior BJP leaders also pointed out that a couple of disqualified MLAs have made it clear that they or their family members would not contest the bypolls. In such constituencies, the party would make its own choice of candidates in consultation with the disqualified MLAs, they said. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa met party national president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday and held consultations with him. Mr. Shah reportedly asked him to wait for Monday's hearing. Two persons were arrested and remanded in judicial custody for raping the 12-year-old. The police were alerted by the child helpline. "We registered a case and arrested the duo," the investigating officer told PTI without giving further details. Investigation revealed that the group of men had sexually assaulted the girl over a period of two years. The police are also probing the role of her father. The girl has given her statement to a magistrate and has been shifted to a home, the police said.

Amid row, Orthodox faction conducts Mass

Jacobite group to hold fast tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI
The Orthodox faction of the Malankara Church, led by bishop Mathews Mar Severios of the Kandanad West diocese, celebrated Mass at the St. Mary's Church on Sunday, marking a major development over the last 45 years of dispute between the church groups. "It is a historic moment since the Malankara church factions went their separate ways in 1974," said an Orthodox church member on Sunday after the Mass that marked the implementation of a Supreme Court verdict in July 2017, handing over control over Malankara parishes to the Orthodox group. The Orthodox group entered the church and celebrated the Mass with police protection.

The Kandanad church is a historic one for the Malankara church as a whole, and over the last four decades, services had been conducted on alternate weeks. If the Orthodox group celebrated Mass on a particular Sunday, the space was allotted to the Jacobite group for the following Sunday. Ritual necessities like burials and marriages were conducted according to the turn allotted to the two factions, church sources said. A large number of the Jacobite church members gathered in front of the Kandanad church as a sign of protest on the church premises. The Jacobite faction, led by Catholicos Baselios Thomas I, will go on a 12-hour fast on Tuesday against the "denial of justice".

Cup of joy



Ode to the brew: This unique teapot sculpture, installed at the busy intersection at Kompally in Hyderabad as part of the beautification efforts by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, has become a major attraction. •K.V.S. GIRI

'Democracy inching towards a slow death'

Dissenters seen as enemies: Ravish

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU
Instead of trying to change the languages of the people, the government should focus on changing the language of our "broken system" to strengthen democracy, journalist Ravish Kumar said after receiving the first Gauri Lankesh National Award for Journalism, conferred by the Gauri Lankesh Memorial Trust, here on Sunday. It was presented to him by freedom fighter H.S. Doreswamy. "We are living in a time where Godse is seen as a patriot and Gandhiji is seen as an extremist, and dissenters are made out to be enemies, anti-nationals, urban naxals, pro-Pakistanis. This shows that our democracy is inching towards a slow death," Mr. Kumar said.



Freedom fighter H.S. Doreswamy presenting the Gauri Lankesh award to Ravish Kumar of NDTV. Teesta Setalvad, social activist, said the award commemorated the values of democracy and fearless journalism. "In these dark times when truth has become a casualty and social justice a mockery, free and fearless media is the only way of hope to restore social sanity," she said.

Acquitted by law, shunned by relatives

Several mentally ill persons remain 'imprisoned' as kin refuse to take them back

K.S. SUDHI KOCHI
Law might have taken a lenient view of Purushothaman, but life has not. Locked up in a cell in Kerala two decades ago in a criminal case, he was acquitted by a court in 2009, but the Koodaranji native has not been able to walk to freedom yet. He has been forced to spend his life in the special cell at the Government Medical College, Kozhikode, as his relatives have been reluctant to take him back to their fold. Medical records say Purushothaman is suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. A data compiled by the Kerala Legal Services Authority (KLSA) indicate that 77 prisoners are languishing in government mental health



Over 70 persons are languishing in three government mental health centres in Kerala. centres in Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode and Thrissur. They could not stand trial as they were found to be of unsound mind. Section 84 of the Indian Penal Code deals with such situations. "Nothing is an offence which is done by a person who, at the time of doing

it, by reason of unsoundness of mind, is incapable of knowing the nature of the act or that he is doing what is either wrong or contrary to law," reads the Code. **Wait continues** Though 14 persons have been acquitted by courts, they are still remaining in prison-like cells as their relatives are reluctant to take them back. Kurumban has been in confinement for a quarter century. Though the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Mannarkad, discharged him of all charges way back in 1996, he continues to be imprisoned. Muhammad Sherief, a murder accused, was admitted to the rehabilitation facility in Kozhikode in 2012. Last year, he was acquitted by the

Special Judge (for the trial of offences against women and children), Thalassery. But the court ordered his continued custody as the judge was convinced that he was suffering from mental illness and had to be properly taken care of and prevented from injuring himself or any other person. **Safe custody** Two decades have passed since Shannughan of Kasaragod was acquitted of murder charge by Sessions Court, Kasaragod, and ordered his safe custody. He too was found "not fit for rehabilitation." It may require an intervention from the higher judiciary to bring justice to them, pointed out a judicial officer involved in the welfare of these prisoners.

School head ensures pick-up, drop of children

Vizianagaram headmaster's initiative has seen the dropout rate go down

K. SRINIVASA RAO VIZIANAGARAM
This is a district known for migration of its people in search of livelihood, leaving behind their children in the elders' care. But the senior citizens bent with age are often unable to take their grandchildren to school. This is one of the major reasons for children dropping out of school. The Jammu Mandal Praja Parishad School, located on the outskirts of Vizianagaram, used to face the same problem. But now it has a decent strength of 120 students. Thanks to the initiatives of the school headmaster Mantri Rammoahana Rao. He arranged one autorickshaw for the safe



Safe ride: The autorickshaw provided to the students of Jammu Mandal Parishad School. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

transport of children from their homes in nearby villages and colonies to the school and back. He pays around ₹4,500 per month from his pocket to ensure continuation of the children's education. Over 30 students have joined the

school recently with the availability of transport from C.R. Nagar and other localities. **New-look school** In fact, the school was in a dilapidated condition five years ago and cyclone

Hudhud did the rest. Without waiting for help from the government, Mr. Rao approached the alumni and local residents for funds. With a kitty of ₹10 lakh, the school's compound wall and other infrastructure were rebuilt. Now the school premises resembles a park. Further, as part of the Swachh Bharat programme, plastic is not allowed in the school. Western-style toilets were also constructed for the benefit of physically challenged students. After observing Mr. Rao's commitment, Shirdi Saibaba Seva Sangham executive member Kurivella Harigopal came forward to supply breakfast for all students at 7.30 a.m.

Asian elephants perceive distress and also respond to it, say researchers

Free-rangers were seen to inspect and support dying calves in the wild

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Even though there are a few anecdotal accounts about Asian elephants’ reaction to death in connection with members of their herd, scientists have for the first time observed and recorded the behavior of free-ranging Asian elephants towards dying and dead elephants.

The paper titled *Behavioural responses of free-ranging Asian elephants (elephas maximus) towards dying or dead conspecifics*, (conspecifics refers to member of same species) was published in the Springer group of publications earlier this year.

In the publication researchers observed that the elephants showed beha-

viours like exploratory (sniffing and inspecting) and epimeletic (supporting the distressed animals) or physically helping supporting dying calves.

“We also recorded high frequency vocalisation (trumpets) by an adult female in the case of dying calves. Our observations indicate that, like their African counterparts, Asian elephants might experience distress in response to death of conspecifics and may have some awareness of death,” the paper authored by Nachiketha Sharma, Sanjeeta Sharma Pokharel, Shiro Kohshima and Raman Sukumar states.

Through the publication scientists have observed and recorded three specific cas-



Distress call: Apart from sniffing and physically helping dying calves, female elephants produced high frequency trumpets.



es of elephants responding to injured, dying or dead conspecifics.

“Two of the three cases involved adult female calf pair and involved epimeletic or helping behavior towards the injured and dying calves. In all three cases, exploratory and approach/visit behaviours towards the dying and dead individuals

were observed,” the scientists record in the paper.

Well-known ecologist from the Indian Institute of Science and elephant expert Raman Sukumar who has contributed to the paper said that from the evolutionary biology perspective these behaviours of elephants appear as an adaptive feature. “We are just be-

ginning to understand this, especially the calf deaths because those are not easy to observe in the wild. The whole social cognitive makeup of the elephant, these kinds of significant emotions are a part of this framework,” he said.

Prof. Sukumar said that in the case of African elephants a behaviour was observed which involves taking interest in the bones of other elephants. “But that kind of behavior has not been observed in Asian elephants so far,” the scientist said.

In the nine-page long publication, the first example which the scientists cite in this context is of a reaction to a dying calf from an adult

female elephant Sita and her two daughters (S1 10-15 years and S2 5-10 years) from Mudumalai National Park in October 2012.

“The three females surrounded the calf with their legs. S1 sniffed the calf, while Sita gently kicked with her forelegs in an attempt to make it stand. S1 and S2 joined Sita to help,” the scientists observed. During the entire period of observations of 506 minutes which included the subsequent day when the calf died, no signs of agitation or aggression were observed from Sita and her daughters and no vocalisations were heard. The scientists observed very little movement from Sita when she was with her calf.

The Forest Department also provided drinking water to the elephants in a large steel container but only Sita drank. She also

IN BRIEF



Al-Qaeda terrorist arrested in Jamshedpur

RANCHI

The Anti-Terrorist Squad of the Jharkhand police arrested an Al-Qaeda terrorist from Jamshedpur, a senior police officer said. On receiving a tip-off, an ATS team nabbed Mohammad Kallimuddin Muzahiri near Tatanagar railway station. Active with Al-Qaeda's Indian sub-committee organisation, he prepared youths for jihad and terror acts, police said. ■■

Kerala kept off highway development project

TRIVANDRUM

Kerala has been sidelined again by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) with the State failing to make it to the 950 km of highway development projects to be built at ₹30,000 crore under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Kerala is the lone southern State that has failed to make the cut.

Australian held with drugs worth ₹21 cr. at IGI airport

NEW DELHI

An Australian national was on Sunday apprehended by the CISF at Delhi airport for allegedly carrying narcotics worth ₹21 crore, a senior official said. He said Mohammed Umar Turay was intercepted around 11.30 a.m. when he arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport to take an Air India flight to Melbourne. ■■

Ghost beneficiaries identified at anganwadis

NEW DELHI

As many as 19.96 lakh ghost beneficiaries have been identified at anganwadi centres in Assam through a daily head-count, said an RTI query. Anganwadi centres are rural child care centres set up to combat undernutrition and stunting among children below the age of six and also to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women. ■■

Doctors issue warning against heartburn drug

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Days after drugmakers and global public health regulators claim to have taken steps to remove supplies of a popular heartburn medication currently under investigation the by U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the presence of human carcinogen called NDMA, or N-Nitrosodimethylamine in Zantac and its generic forms, doctors in India too have cautioned the general public about this popular drug and asked for an urgent advisory by the Indian drug regulator.

Novartis AG's Sandoz unit said earlier this week that it was halting worldwide distribution of generic versions of the stomach drug Zantac after regulators in the U.S. and Europe began investi-



Zantac. ■ AFP

gating the drug.

“In India Ranitidine (some versions of Zantac is also known by the generic name ranitidine) is used for treating gastrointestinal disorders and discomfort. The news regarding the presence of NDMA in Ranitidine is disturbing. Ranitidine remains the most commonly prescribed medicine for acid

peptic disorders and has generally been considered safer than many other medicines,” said Dr. Shanti Swaroop Dhar, principal consultant, Gastroenterology, Panchsheel Park.

Awaiting findings

He said that doctors need to know whether NDMA is present as an additive and if it is possible to make Ranitidine which is NDMA-free.

“Further we also need more information as to whether the amount of NDMA present is above the threshold and a genuine risk as small amounts of NDMA is present in many common foods. Short of above clarifications it is prudent to exercise caution in prescribing this drug pending the directives from competent authorities,” he said.

Chennai police tap tech to catch burglars in 24 hours

Rajasthani gang that stole 120 sovereigns held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Technology and coordination with counterparts in other States helped a special team of the Chennai City police crack a burglary case in Nanganallur within 24 hours and nab 10 suspects belonging to a gang from Rajasthan.

According to police, 120 sovereigns of gold jewellery stolen from the house of Ramesh, in SBI Colony Extension in Nanganallur on Friday evening. Mr. Ramesh and his wife Komalavalli had gone out when the burglars struck.

Based on their complaint, a case was registered and a special team was constitut-

ed by Prem Anand Sinha, Additional Commissioner, South. It started checking CCTV footage from the locality and identified the suspects.

“We collected many telephone dumps from the locality and found a few suspicious persons and started tracking them. They were found moving towards Ajmer,” said Mr. Sinha.

The team found that the suspects were travelling by train No. 12969 to Jaipur. The police tipped off their counterparts in Ujjain. “The help of the Railway Protection Force was taken and the gang was intercepted at Nagda station after Ujjain,” said the police officer. A special team flew to Jaipur to bring the accused to Chennai. Three of the accused were identified as Kailashpati, Babloo and Saawariya.

Odisha Lokayukta seeks report from police on 2014 land deal

Property of tribals was acquired and sold to politicians

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Lokayukta has directed the State Crime Branch to submit a detailed report about the inquiry the agency had conducted pertaining to alleged irregularity in land transactions involving high profile politicians of the State.

The inquiry pertains to the purchase and sale of high value lease land at Ghangapatna area on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar in 2014.

The crime branch has been asked to submit its report by October 17 while next hearing in the case has been fixed on October 21.

Pradip Pradhan, an RTI activist, had filed a com-

plaint with the Lokayukts alleging the land irregularities were suppressed under instructions from top government authorities.

“In August, 2014, local people and media had exposed that vast stretches of leased land belonging to tribal people had been illegally acquired by late Kalpataru Das, who was then an influential BJD minister, and his son , and the daughter of a BJP MLA,” alleged Mr. Pradhan.

After concerns were expressed over land deals, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on August 28, 2014 had directed the crime branch to conduct a probe into the scam and submit its report within two months.

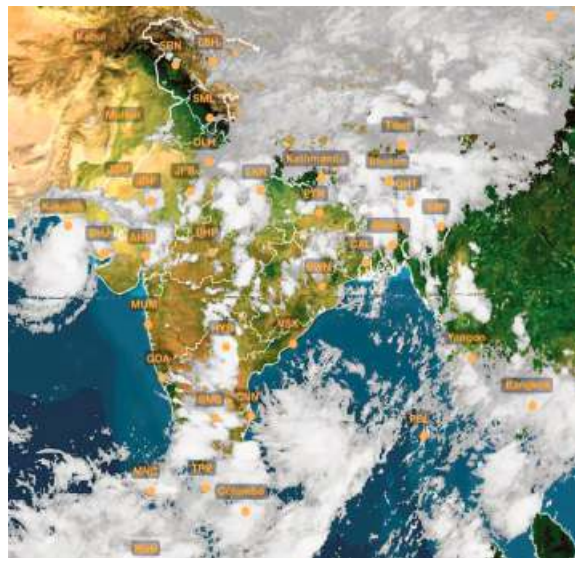
“Local tahsildar, in his report to the revenue department, had also pointed out large-scale irregularities in the sale and purchase of land and how middlemen, in connivance with officials, had fraudulently sold land in the area to several persons,” said Mr. Pradhan.

He said during the course of Crime Branch inquiry, a series of arrests of poor tribal lease holders were made and it was claimed that 76 acres of illegally acquired land had been brought back to government record.

According to the activist, though Crime Branch arrested poor tribals and few government officials, no action was taken against influential politicians.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Telangana, Karnataka, eastern Rajasthan, western Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	34.3	26.5	Kozhikode	...	33.2	25.4
Ahmedabad	...	33.9	25.6	Kurnool	...	33.3	24.2
Aizawl	...	...	...	Lucknow	...	29.7	26.0
Allahabad	21.0	31.0	24.9	Madurai	...	35.8	25.6
Bengaluru	7.9	30.8	21.2	Mangaluru	6.0	31.6	23.7
Bhopal	8.0	31.8	22.6	Mumbai	0.8	33.3	25.0
Bhubaneswar	...	34.6	25.4	Mysuru	...	32.2	20.0
Chandigarh	...	34.5	25.0	New Delhi	23.4	29.8	23.7
Chennai	...	33.1	26.5	Patna	...	10.4	28.6
Coimbatore	...	33.6	23.7	Port Blair	...	33.6	26.6
Dehradun	47.0	31.5	19.6	Puducherry	...	0.3	33.0
Gangtok	22.4	21.6	15.7	Pune	...	2.1	31.3
Goa	0.2	30.3	23.8	Raipur	...	...	33.5
Guwahati	...	35.7	25.4	Ranchi	...	...	32.7
Hubballi	...	28.0	21.0	Shillong	...	14.9	24.6
Hyderabad	...	32.7	24.4	Shimla	...	26.0	21.1
Imphal	22.9	31.9	20.9	Srinagar	...	...	28.3
Jaipur	...	32.7	22.4	Thiruvananthapuram	...	...	32.8
Kochi	4.2	31.4	24.8	Tiruchi	...	...	33.9
Kohima	4.5	24.4	18.4	Vijayawada	...	...	33.2
Kolkata	9.7	33.5	25.6	Visakhapatnam	...	...	33.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing					Yesterday	
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	99	158	151	...	78	...
Bengaluru	10	59	75	...	90	...
Chennai	12	15	42	...	79	...
Delhi	4	109	12	...	56	...
Hyderabad	18	22	15	...	38	...
Kolkata	9	35	12	...	64	...
Lucknow	4	31	47	...	81	...
Mumbai	8	25	86	...	32	...
Pune	86	...	67	...	42	...
Visakhapatnam	18	16	20	...	10	...

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ayurvedic pain therapy gets northeastern twist with chilli

Based on an acupuncture theory, the recipe developed by a Naga practitioner has received the approval of Ministry of AYUSH

RAHUL KARMAKAR
PASIGHAT

A mainstream Ayurvedic pain therapy has been given a north-eastern twist with betel leaf and Naga Chilli, one of the hottest on earth.

The hot experiment based on an acupuncture theory by Imlikumba Jamir, the sole Naga panchakarma specialist in India, has been approved by the Ministry of AYUSH.

Panchakarma, entailing five procedures, is the purification therapy used in Ayurvedic medicine while AYUSH expands to Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy.

Naga Chilli (Capsicum chinense), also known as King Chilli, is more popular as Bhot Jolokia, which derives its name from the popular belief that it originated in the hills of Bhutan.

The Guinness Book of World Records had in 2007 named it as the hottest chilli but lost its position first to a U.K. variety called Infinity and then the U.S.-developed Carolina Reaper.

Tradition gives way

“Ayurveda prescribes a pungent paste to be used as shoalaprashamana, or pain reliever. What I have done for osteoarthritis of knee joint is replace some



Mix and match: Imlikumba Jamir has used local substitutes to make the mix economical and effective.

traditional ingredients following the pain-gap theory in acupuncture to give more pain to an affected part for reducing or killing the original pain,” Dr. Jamir told *The Hindu*.

The 32-year-old from Nagaland's Mokokchung, now a medical officer at the North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine in Pasighat, did his masters in Panchakarma from Shri

Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Ayurveda in Hassan, Karnataka.

Dr. Jamir replaced the primary ingredient, common chilli, in the traditional paste with the Naga Chilli and added betel leaf for its astringent property. The other ingredients - garlic, ginger, rock salt and sesame oil - remained the same.

“The idea was to use easily available local substitutes and in the right proportion to make the paste least expensive and most effective. I used the paste on 10 people and only one, a woman, complained of irritation. The paste is

now being administered only after a skin test to ascertain if a person is not allergic to the pungency of the hot mix,” he said.

Room for improvement

The higher degree of pungency compared to the traditional mix, Dr. Jamir explained, makes the nutrients penetrate deeper to particular tissues that need to be stimulated for pain relief.

“Itching in one case aside, all the 10 patients were relieved of pain considerably with a reduction in swelling. The result has been encouraging, but there is room for further clinical trials,” he said.



Local matters

Issues of livelihood, governance should shape poll campaigns in Maharashtra and Haryana

Politics is set to take the centre stage in national debates with the announcement of Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana, though there was hardly a lull after the Parliament election earlier this year. The BJP is in power in both States currently, in Maharashtra with its oldest and most combative ally, the Shiv Sena. In 2014, the BJP got its first Chief Ministers in both the States, reaping the reward for some audacious political moves. In Maharashtra it gambled away its alliance with the Shiv Sena and contested separately to win 122 seats compared to Sena's 63. The Sena lost its position as the alliance leader in the post-poll alliance, and that reality will now be formalised in a pre-poll alliance. In Haryana, the BJP dramatically rose, assembling a non-Jat social coalition and later reinforcing it by appointing a non-Jat CM in Manohar Lal Khattar. In Maharashtra too, the party's political strategy involved the appointment of a non-Maratha as CM – Devendra Fadnis. In both States, the Prime Minister's popularity provided further momentum to the BJP's rise, which continued into 2019. The track records of the State governments can be debated but the party's advantage over its political rivals is evident.

The disarray in the opposition ranks, which is partly a reflection of the underlying social factors including deep communalisation of the polity in both States, is the biggest advantage for the BJP. In Maharashtra, the Congress-NCP alliance had long become a bastion of dynastic politics and vested interests. The BJP's strong-arm tactics has contributed to furthering the existing vulnerabilities of the alliance. In Haryana, the Opposition is split into three – the Congress, the Indian National Lok Dal and another breakout faction of the party. These groups are in the grip of the dominant Jat community, which gives a tremendous starting advantage to the BJP. The Congress, under pressure from former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, replaced its State Chief Ashok Tanwar, a Dalit, just ahead of the poll announcement. Altogether, the Congress's messaging has been uninspiring for its crucial social base of disadvantaged groups. Despite these remarkable advantages, the BJP has shown a tendency in recent weeks to stir up controversial issues. In Haryana, the CM wants to implement the NRC; in Maharashtra the government is, unlinked to the NRC, planning detention centres for undocumented people suspected to be immigrants. The BJP has also sought to bring issues such as the hollowing out of Article 370 into the campaigns. As two industrialised States, Haryana and Maharashtra must be at the centre of any effort to infuse fresh momentum in the country's sagging economy. Not surprisingly, these States are also hosts to migrant communities. A sharp focus on governance and economy at the State level in the forthcoming campaign will be helpful not only for Maharashtra and Haryana but for the entire country too.

Seeking to secure

The move to link Aadhaar with GST registration is a tentative step in the right direction

Ever since the Centre and the States passed the landmark legislation in 2016 adopting a single countrywide Goods and Services Tax (GST), the federal council that is tasked with overseeing all the regulatory aspects of the indirect tax has had its hands full. From recommending the rates that could apply to various products and services, to deciding on what could be tax exempted, the GST Council has had the onerous task of laying out the policy framework for administering the tax in a manner that benefits all stakeholders – the governments, the consumers and the suppliers along the value chain. Given the complexity of the legacy taxes that GST subsumed and replaced and the teething troubles of operating a new tax system, ensuring optimal outcomes has proved an abiding challenge. A significant concern relates to the loopholes that unscrupulous operators have sought to exploit, whereby revenue that ought to have accrued to the Centre and the States has leaked while allowing these elements to derive illicit profits. And the scale of some has been breathtaking. Earlier this month, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence and the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence conducted a pan-India joint operation, which saw about 1,200 officers simultaneously conducting searches at 336 different locations. In the process they unearthed a network of exporters and their suppliers who had connived to claim fraudulent refunds of Integrated GST, with more than ₹470 crore of input tax credit availed being based on non-existent entities or suppliers with fictitious addresses. A further ₹450 crore of IGST refund is also under review.

It is against the backdrop of such cases, and the fact that frauds totalling up to a staggering ₹45,682 crore have been detected since the roll-out of the tax in July 2017, that the GST Council has decided "in principle" to recommend linking Aadhaar with registration of taxpayers. In its 37th meeting in Goa on Friday, the council also agreed to appraise the possibility of making the biometrics-based unique identifier mandatory for claiming refunds. Already the GST Network – the information technology backbone on which the whole tax system runs – has made it mandatory for new dealers registering under the composition scheme for small businesses to either authenticate their Aadhaar or submit to physical verification of their business, starting January 2020. The council too needs to follow the network's lead and move swiftly to recommend mandatory linking for refunds, especially since that has proved to be the main source of most frauds. In a becalmed economy, neither the Centre nor States can afford to forego even a rupee of revenue that is due to the public coffers.

The nationalist hindrance to climate actions

The UN Climate Action Summit is likely to hand out hard lessons about climate politics in an era of nationalism



NAVROZ K. DUBASH

Can global diplomatic jawboning backed by an upsurge of popular youth mobilisation shift the hard economic and political calculus of nations? Today's global Climate Action Summit, convened and energetically backed by the United Nations Secretary General, seeks to pull off just this feat. It seeks to spur national pledges and action to address climate change in the face of mounting information that the community of nations is doing too little, and too late. How likely is this effort to be successful? And what are India's stakes in this summit?

Visible signs and science

The summit occurs amid a steady drumroll of scientific alarm. The scientific advisory group to the summit (of which I am a member), reports that the five years since 2015 is set to be the warmest of any equivalent recorded period, sea level rise is accelerating, and oceans have become 26% more acidic since the dawn of the Industrial era. Recent weather events bring into focus the likely implications of a warming world. This summer saw Delhi-like temperatures across southern Europe; Hurricane Dorian rendered large parts of the Bahamas unliveable; and witnessed simultaneous raging fires in the Amazon, central Africa and even Siberia.

Scientists are increasingly able to link these individual events with climate change – the heat wave in France and Germany was made eight to 10 times more likely by cli-

mate change. Yet, concentrations of carbon dioxide continue to rise, and current country pledges would not stem this increase even by 2030.

The growing evidence of climate change – scientific and experiential – has spurred an upwelling of social action, notably among the youth. While more noticeable in the global North, young people are also mobilising in India and other countries in the global South, with *The New York Times* reporting that organisers estimate four million youth turned out in protest (on Friday) against inaction on climate change around the world.

A political disconnect

If science, experience and public alarm are increasingly on the side of action, unfortunately, national politics in country after country is trending in the wrong direction. A turn toward nationalism in multiple countries has created a short-term, look-out-for-our-own mentality that is inimical to the global collective action needed to address climate change. Thus, in the United States, President Donald Trump not only refuses to enhance actions, he has actively rolled back measures in the electricity sector and actions to limit methane emissions in the name of competitiveness. In Brazil, President Jair Bolsonaro has made it clear he sees environmental protections as limiting Brazilian business. And nationalism in some countries makes it much harder to pursue aggressive action even in countries where the politics is more conducive.

Backed by popular mobilisation and scientific evidence, can the UN Summit swing the tide toward enhanced action? The Secretary-General is pinning hopes on a two-track approach.

First, in an exercise of diplomat-



AFP

ic pressure, countries have been urged to enhance their pledges for action made as part of the Paris Agreement, committing to lower future emissions. The intention is to provide a platform for climate champions to step up and claim leadership of an important global agenda.

So far, the response is underwhelming. A number of small and mid-sized countries, including the United Kingdom, have already committed to achieving the objective of making their economies net carbon neutral by 2050 (that is, the sum of emissions and uptake of carbon through 'sinks' such as forests is zero). By contrast, several large countries, notably the United States, Brazil, Australia, Canada, Japan and Mexico are reportedly not even going to participate in the event at a high level. China and India have issued statements hinting that they are doing quite enough, and India has highlighted the need for enhanced finance if it is to do more. While there may be last minute surprises, the UN Summit does not look like shifting any entrenched positions – those willing to act are known, and those unwilling are unmoved. International suasion, even backed by science and popular mobilisation, seems unlikely to shift entrenched national politics.

The second track operates less in the realm of diplomacy and seeks instead to induce changes in real economies around a set of 'ac-

tion portfolios'. These include, for example, furthering and accelerating an energy transition toward low-carbon energy, making cities more climate friendly and more resilient to climate disruption, and starting the process of turning energy intensive sectors such as steel and cement more carbon friendly. Notably, domestic objectives are central to these conversations: promoting solar energy for energy security reasons; making cities more liveable; and making industries more efficient and therefore competitive. These initiatives serve as a focal point for broader conversations including coalitions of business and researchers. If the UN Summit is to result in enhanced action, this may well be the more fruitful track.

A path for India

What does this canvas of global climate politics mean for India? First, that the prospects of effective global action required to address climate change are so weak is extremely bad news for India. We are a deeply vulnerable country to climate impacts. It would behove India not to be a status quo player in this context, but to argue for enhanced global collective action.

Second, India has the potential to show the pathway to accelerating action on climate change even while pursuing its development interests. A notable example is its energy efficiency track record, which helps limit greenhouse gases even while saving the nation energy. However, there are inconsistencies in India's story as a climate champion. India is justifiably recognised for promoting renewable energy, yet also muddies the waters by sending mixed signals on future coal use. The choice of Houston – the U.S. oil capital – for the Indian Prime Minister's recent public event, risks signalling that

India sees its energy independence as tied to enhanced fossil fuel use. While some increase in fossil fuel is inevitable for India, the messaging is incoherent at best. India needs domestic energy policies that are more clearly and coherently tuned to a future low carbon world.

Third, such a domestic message would position India to be a true global climate leader, rather than a leader only among climate laggards. Could an India, firmly committed to a low-carbon future that brings development benefits, strike common cause with other powers? Could, for example, India and China, both jostling for influence in African nations but also both losers from climate impacts, jointly help ensure that Africa's development is powered by renewable energy rather than fossil fuels and based on an energy efficient future? Such an agenda could bring together economic, environmental and political gains.

The UN Summit is likely to teach us hard lessons about climate politics in an era of nationalism. The pathway to enhanced action is unlikely to override entrenched national politics, powered by international suasion. Instead, the aim should be to make accelerated climate action congruent with an enlightened notion of national interest by focusing on key actions in rapidly changing areas such as energy and urbanisation. Such a pathway holds enticing prospects for India. But it requires that India can build a diplomatic approach on a firm domestic foundation that takes seriously climate change as a factor in its future development pathway.

Navroz K. Dubash is a Professor at the Centre for Policy Research, and the editor of the forthcoming book, 'India in a Warming World: Integrating Climate Change and Development'

Punjab's pain, India's agony, Britain's unrepentance

The U.K. needs to build on the Archbishop of Canterbury's repentant gesture at Jallianwala Bagh



NONICA DATTA

It happened to be in Amritsar for some research work on the day of the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Jallianwala Bagh in early September. I actually bumped into him and spoke to him briefly in the hotel lobby. He came across as affable, kind and humble. He was ready to talk to a stranger like me.

Gesture of atonement

His presence in Jallianwala Bagh, on September 10, as we remember the 100 years of the massacre this year, is momentous. What he did inside the premises of the Bagh was even more dramatic. He lay down flat to pray in front of the memorial and said he was "personally very sorry". This was no publicity stunt. It requires courage to do that.

The Archbishop further added, "I have no status to apologise on behalf of the UK, its government or its history. But I am personally very sorry for this terrible atrocity." He said, "Coming here arouses a sense of profound shame at what happened in this place. It is one of

a number of deep stains on British history. The pain and grief that has transcended the generations since must never be dismissed or denied." No words could be more appropriate, well-timed and consoling.

As head of the Anglican Church of the world, the Archbishop, Justin Welby, commands a worldwide status. But he also has a special place in Britain. A post granted by the Queen, he crowns the British monarch and holds a significant position in the hierarchy of the British state. In his statement on the Amritsar massacre, he said he was not speaking for his country, but the Anglican Church. As the senior most churchman in a Christian country, his words do matter.

In the light of the descendants of the victims appealing for an apology from the Archbishop to assuage their "hurt feelings against the British atrocities", the Archbishop's repentant gesture seeks to lend a healing touch to the echoes of the dead. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre is one of the most horrific acts of violence in modern history. The impact of General Dyer's cold-blooded, rational shooting of hundreds of innocent lives, on April 13, 1919, with 1,650 gunshots continues to torment. We still have not got over it. Many may never. Not just confined to Punjab, the pain of the carnage forms the collective agony of en-



AP

tire India. The Archbishop did more than what anybody in his position could possibly do. Predictably, his visit brings to the fore once again the age-old hyper-sensitive question of the U.K. taking responsibility for its own imperial past and violence. This is the unresolved and controversial historical issue of colonial injustice and apology. The Queen did not apologise. Prince Philip did not. Former British Prime Minister David Cameron on a visit to India in 2013 did not. The current British High Commissioner in 2019 did not. The list goes on and each time a British dignitary comes to Amritsar, it feels like scratching a scab on the wound. A perpetual wound. The city of Amritsar continues to grapple with the legacy of Dyer's savagery. The ensuing military violence echoed across the Punjab.

Contours of imperial violence

Dyer's monstrous act was principally a racially motivated onslaught, which formed the core of imperial violence. He ordered the

troops to fire without warning and continued even when he could see that people were running for their lives. In his evidence to the Hunter Committee, he persisted, "... I had committed a just and merciful act." Dyer regretted nothing, and made no attempt to conceal anything. After the firing, there was no provision for the relief of the wounded. When questioned, the unrepentant Dyer said, "It was not my job."

Dyer's brutality was justified in the racial climate of those times. He was celebrated as a hero in certain British circles. The Dyer Fund was set up for his survival back in England. What is appalling is that the colonial monstrosity continued even after April 13, 1919 in Punjab. Martial law was imposed from April 15. The British held summary trials, tortured prisoners and executed Indians. Punjab, which provided the largest number of recruits during World War I, was rewarded with such type of terrible punishment and brought under a rule of terror. Punjab could never be the same again.

On April 19, Dyer promulgated the "crawling order" on a street in Amritsar where a lady missionary, Miss Sherwood, had been attacked. The order instructed people to crawl on all fours through the lane. They were tied to flogging posts and flogged with several stripes. Dyer's excessive use of ra-

cial force was designed to, in his own words, create a "wide impression" and "moral effect". He had the backing of Michael O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab and Lord Chelmsford, the Vice-roy of India.

The shrieks of the victims of the massacre continue to hound the legacy of the British empire. They echo as haunting cries of a victimised generation of a community whose trauma has not been fully addressed. The shrieks have now turned into a seething rage. This is not just a matter of apportioning blame and instilling guilt on the British Empire and its after-effects and holding it culpable for its unwarranted monopoly on violence against the colonised. It is also about introspection, acknowledgment and responsibility that would facilitate healing and restitution. The Archbishop of Canterbury's compassionate gesture is certainly a symbolic sign of reconciliation and empathy. The people of India demand that the British government takes the "historic step" towards tendering an apology. Is it not time for Britain to acknowledge the inconvenient truth and trauma of colonial and racial violence? Perhaps, the Archbishop's initiative marks a new beginning.

Nonica Datta teaches history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Children for change

It has been heartening to read about and see visuals of the protests staged by millions of school students across the world last Friday over inaction on climate change. These protests and strikes offer many valuable lessons. The first is that students' lives are not confined to the four walls of the classroom but transcend beyond that. Since they are also social beings, they too must have deep awareness of burning social issues. What is the logic of filling their minds with information about global warming and climate change if they have no role in bringing about changes in the world? The student community across the world must take a leaf out of the youth climate movement's book and learn to protest over substantive issues rather than trivial

ones. It is delightful that the youth climate movement launched by the young Swede, Greta Thunberg, has been able to invigorate and mobilise youth across the world against environmental degradation.

VENU G.S.,
Kalluvathukkal, Kollam, Kerala

Houston and after

It is strange that the sponsors of the mega event in Houston, U.S., "Howdy Modi", do not even appear to realise that ultra-nationalism, which grips some in the curiously ambivalent Indian-American community, is a double-edged sword (Editorial page, "One people, many countries", September 21). One day they could end up facing a backlash from those of their ilk on foreign soil. It appears that the upsurge of populist nationalism in

both the U.S. and India in recent times has something to do with this. There is a trend in both countries to push forward narrow and exclusivist definitions of national identity. Beyond all this, the Indian-American community may also have been looking for some kind of parity – or an illusion of parity – between the U.S. and India in getting the two leaders on a common platform even as the world waits with bated breath for the likely bi-national ramifications of the meet.

M. JAMEEL AHMED,
Mysuru

■ I fail to understand what the multiple identities and split loyalties are which the writer is arguing about and how such identities, if at all they exist, are being trampled on in India under 'Hindutva rule'. Individual

identity, regional identity, language and religious identities have been flourishing from time immemorial and will continue to irrespective of the ideology of whichever party rules. In a democracy, the ruling party does not drop from the sky but is chosen by the majority. Indian voters are more mature and intelligent; the national identity is supreme.

DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Oscar entry

Once again a Hindi film has been nominated for the Oscars (Page 1, "Gully Boy is the official entry for Oscars", September 22). And this film too has its gaze on the slums of India. The point is that the jury needs to understand that there are films in India in other languages too – especially from south India – which may not have the

"slum touch" but have nevertheless won audiences over with their focus on critical issues such as caste, education, religion, women's rights and even music.

G. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

Hardly united

The column, 'Letter from a Concerned Reader' (Magazine, "Tea and Parle-G", September 22, sums up in its own humorous way how a single man's "wave" is unwittingly having a huge impact on relations among family and friends. Three years ago, after shifting to Chennai from Mumbai, I created a WhatsApp Group of school friends, now scattered across. It was a major online reunion after nearly 30 years. It led to even invitations being extended to each other to visit home and attend family functions.

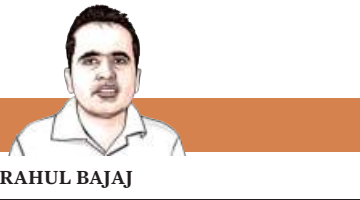
Everything went on smoothly as long as there was only an exchange of nostalgic moments. Enter politics, the villain of the piece. Soon posts grew with a counter-wave of replies. Fake versions of politics had a free run. As a group administrator, my requests to stop posting political content went unheeded. The innocence of schooldays had vanished. After a while, some friends left the group in a huff while relations with others soured. It was ironical that while we were united on a social platform, we suddenly found ourselves divided. It is disturbing that when it comes to making a choice between political affiliation and personal relationships, there are many who prefer the first.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

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When the pedestal feels like a cage

Public spaces need to be made more accessible to the disabled, but not through gratuitous gestures



Recently, while I was returning from Mumbai to my hometown Nagpur after meeting my best friend from school, a security officer at the Mumbai airport expressed a desire to examine the belt I was wearing. The airport staffer assisting me tried to dissuade the officer from putting me through this inconvenience, whispering loud enough for me to be able to hear, “He is a blind passenger.”

As someone born blind, I have often been confronted with offers of what I would call ‘untoward assistance’ – support that is apparently based on my disability but actually in no way correlated to it. From people who bend over backwards to exclusively offer me a chair whenever they see me standing even though my blindness has nothing to do with my ability to stand for long periods of time, to airport officers who exhibit the willingness to allow me to carry more luggage than the prescribed ceiling; from security officers at bars who ask me not to pay the entry fee to taxi drivers who insist that they will not charge me for the ride, many have made such gestures.

Perhaps the type of behaviour I am referring to is typified by an incident from an economics class when I was in Class XI. Our teacher had asked all students to stand on one side of a classroom for committing an infraction. Soon after making me stand along with the other erring students, she asked me to go back and sit in my assigned location. I soon realised that the reason I was singled out for this benevolence was my blindness though my infraction was, objectively speaking, no less serious than that of my peers. I stood up and requested her to let me continue standing, arguing that my blindness bore no relationship with the relaxation I was offered.

Social interactions

This pattern of behaviour, premised on placing the disabled on a pedestal, also extends to social interactions. When I was in school, classmates



would often address me with the pronoun *aap*, a Hindi term connoting a high degree of formality usually used to refer to elders. They would refer to all my other classmates with the more informal and casual *tu* or *tum*.

My experience is not an aberration. In his *New York Times* bestseller *Eyes Wide Open*, blind lawyer-turned-businessman Isaac Lidsky writes: “While my blindness has never helped me win a trial, it often helps me get a table in a crowded restaurant. I am usually treated as a long-time regular by my second visit to a business.”

Why, it may be reasonably asked, should we be concerned about what are benign gestures of kindness aimed at mitigating the hardship of those perceived as having been dealt a bad hand? Personally, I think this is because these actions are often rooted in stereotypes about the capabilities of blind people.

A security officer who thinks that a blind person cannot be dangerous on any circumstance essentially equates a visual impairment with an inability to commit violence. Someone who thinks a blind person always needs to be seated operates on the unstated premise that visual impairment necessarily results in reduced stamina. Someone who refuses to let a blind person pay in an economic transac-

tion essentially brands the latter as a supplicant.

Some may argue that many people capitalise on different facets of their identity to march ahead in different spheres of human endeavour. As David Brooks argues, we live in an age in which it is important to build identity capital – elements of our personality which can set us apart – so, some may think, there is nothing wrong in using the ‘blindness card’ to obtain these kind of benefits. Further, it may also be argued that the reality is that far too many blind people continue to face persistent patterns of discrimination owing to their disability, so they should not go out of their way to relinquish any favourable treatment that they are offered in a particular life domain, as things even out in the final analysis.

Acting with integrity

In my view, however, as blind people, it is important that we act with integrity when it comes to asking for reasonable accommodations. This means only asking for accommodations that aim to remove the roadblocks imposed by our blindness – certainly no less but also no more. This is important not only to be accountable to our own conscience, but also if we wish to be taken seriously when we complain of disability-based discrimination. By taking

an undue benefit of entering a bar for free when our sighted peers must pay an entry fee, we lessen our moral authority to complain about being unduly prevented from enjoying the clubbing experience because the same bar is then found to be inaccessible. If we do not question an airport staffer’s decision to allow us to carry more luggage than the ceiling just because we are blind when the relaxation has nothing to do with our blindness, on what basis can we then take the same airport staffer to task when she does not provide us the sighted assistance we need to navigate the crowded airport?

Reasonable accommodation

There may, of course, be circumstances when one’s blindness is coupled with other disabilities, making the type of support I characterise as untoward assistance a reasonable accommodation. It may also be the case that one’s blindness results in a denial of opportunities to be economically self-reliant, making fee concessions and waivers an appropriate course of action. What I am against, however, is simple-minded pigeonholing of the disabled into objects perpetually in need of favourable treatment that betrays a profoundly impoverished understanding of what it means to be disabled – an understanding rooted in nothing but stereotypes and a sense of pity.

As Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has explained in the context of the fight for gender justice, the pedestal on which women are made to stand is often a cage. To put it another way, what is considered a measure to protect a certain group from harm or to advance its interests often, in fact, has the unintended consequence of substantially undercutting those very interests. This is because it prevents members of that group from fully participating in all societal institutions on equal terms and thereby circumscribes the scope of their aspirations. Therefore, it is high time that those of us truly invested in the welfare of the disabled recognised that the pedestal on which disabled people are often placed is a cage, for only then can we begin to free ourselves from its shackles.

Rahul Bajaj is a postgraduate law student at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar

The importance of labelling hate crimes

Such crimes impact the social fabric of the country



The office of the Readers’ Editor (RE) is a visible institutional framework “to improve accuracy, verification, and standards in the newspaper; and to strengthen bonds between the newspaper and its millions of print platform and online readers.”

This means the RE has to be an effective interlocutor between the newspaper and its readers and ensure a two-way communication. One of the tasks I have been performing is also to explain the rationale that governs the news judgment and the ethical framework that governs the editorial judgment of this newspaper on various contentious issues.

Last week, there was a front-page story headlined “Four of Muslim family injured in attack at Aligarh railway station”. Dushyant Kumar, a reader from Baraut, Uttar Pradesh, who gets the Mohali edition of the newspaper, felt that the headline was both misleading and communal. Oruganti Srinivas, an advocate from Visakhapatnam, discovered a design not just in the headline but also in the tone of the report. His argument was that the report cast a doubt as if the violence was instigated by the majority community in a communally sensitive city and felt that the report promoted enmity between two religious communities. K.R.A. Narasiah, who has often written in this newspaper, saw an anti-Modi streak in the story and its headline.

Conceptual frameworks

I would like to share some of the conceptual frameworks that define the daily practice of a newsroom, for, the overall ethos of the newspaper organisation informs its choices and its editorial judgment. That is the reason we find a multitude of methods in both reporting and in news processing among different news organisations. The content of a newspaper is organised by a principle called news hierarchy, which varies from publication to publication.

Some media scholars have argued that five different types of proximities determine news hierarchy: geographical proximity, temporal proximity, affective proximity, practical proximity, and utilitarian proximity. These often contending and contesting

ideas are mediated to arrive at a consensus in news meetings where the final decision is taken about any story. This involves a few critical questions: Where should a news item be placed? Is it a front-page story or can it be in inside pages? What should be its length? Whether a story requires an explainer or not? Does it warrant an editorial?

The editorial team told me that they make a distinction between common crime and hate crime, and that common crime is covered in the inside pages while hate crime is elevated to the front page given its enormity and its impact on the social fabric of the country. The U.K. police have come up with an accessible definition of hate crime: “A hate crime is when someone commits a crime against you because of your disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other perceived difference.”

Realising the difference between crime in general and the toxic nature of hate crimes, the U.S. passed a special law called “The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009”. In a country where the First Amendment has given latitude to hate speech and offensive rhetoric, for instance to the utterances of the members of the Ku Klux Klan, the courts and the legislature in the form of both the Congress and the Senate have carved out notable, carefully drafted narrow exceptions to free speech which authorises prosecution for language deemed to fall out of bounds.

Long-term damage

The rise of hate crimes may be a product of our current polarised polity. As it has been pointed out in many learned articles and pieces of legislation, hate crimes inflict long-term emotional and societal damage, create additional fault lines, fracture communities, depress individuals to the point of self-harm and cannibalise the space for reconciliation and coexistence.

The editorial team and the reporter decided to go ahead with the story on the front page because they did manage to ascertain that the attack on the family of four in Aligarh railway station was indeed a hate crime. It is the duty of a newspaper not only to unambiguously distinguish hate crimes from other forms of breaking the law but also label them accurately. I would like to draw the attention of the readers to the July 17, 2018, observation of the Supreme Court of India, which came down heavily against the recurring hate violence, which it warned should not become the new normal.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

India’s opportunity at the UN

The Modi govt. has a chance to regain its footing in the court of international public opinion

MICHAEL KUGELMAN

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the UN General Assembly on September 27, his country will find itself in an unfamiliar position.

For the first time in some years, India is in the cross hairs of some segments of the international community, thanks to its recent actions in Jammu and Kashmir. While governments around the world have largely remained quiet, some influential voices have lambasted New Delhi’s decision to dilute Article 370 and criticised the country over the effects of its ongoing lockdown in Kashmir.

In the U.S., members of Congress, the State Department, and even Bernie Sanders, a front-line 2020 presidential candidate, have registered their concern. It has been a long time since there was so much negative noise about India in Washington, where for quite a few years there has been – and rightly remains – a strong bipartisan consensus in favour of a close partnership.

Here, the annual UNGA meetings offer the government an opportunity to regain its footing in the court of international public opinion.

On Kashmir lockdown

To achieve that outcome, the most reasonable, and realistic, expectation is for a speech that features two core components: a clear acknowledgement of the international community’s concerns about human rights in Kashmir, and a focus on India’s robust efforts to tackle the global development challenges that attract considerable concern in the UN and beyond, issues such as health, sanitation, and climate change.

Yes, it will be asking for too much from Mr. Modi if one expects him to mention, much less acknowledge concerns about, a sensitive issue that New Delhi regards as internal and does not want to get further internationalised. Still, Mr. Modi, by stating that he recognises the world’s worries about the lockdown and its effects, can push back against global perceptions that his government is wholly dismissive of a real and se-

rious problem. And by striking a note of humility, he could undercut the narrative of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan who, at the same forum, will in all likelihood come out with guns blazing on Kashmir.

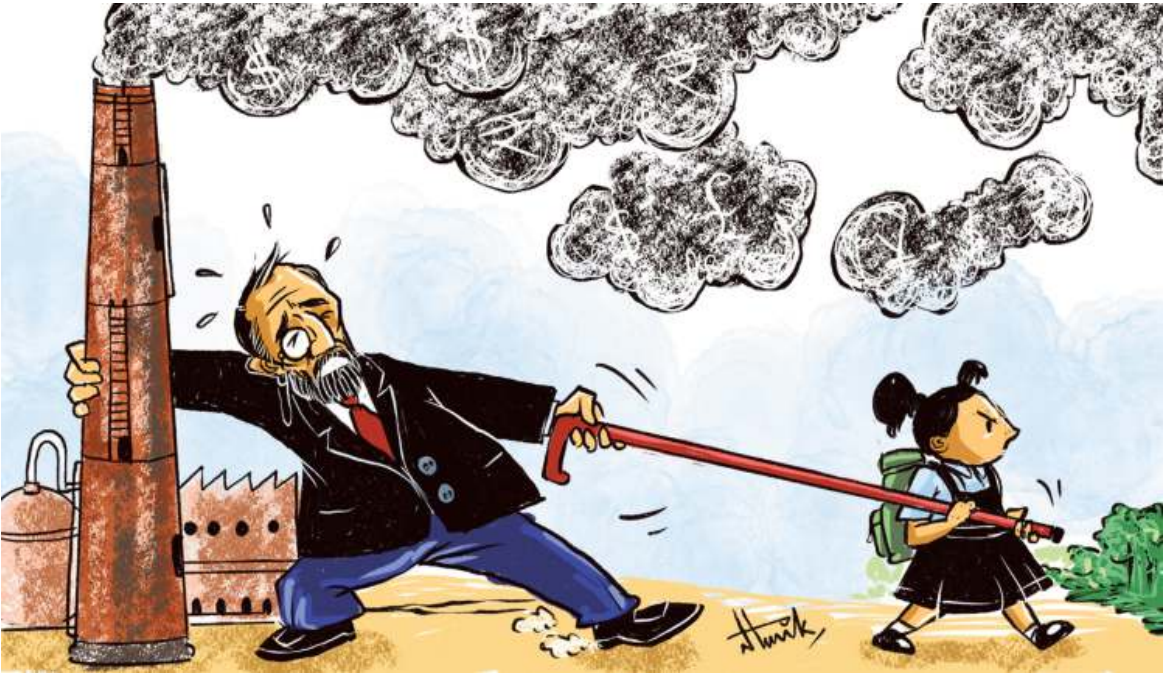
Underscoring the bona fides

What would also resonate well is a speech that underscores India’s bona fides as a rising and responsible global power, in contrast to what are perceived by some overseas observers as irresponsible actions in Kashmir. Here, Mr. Modi can pick up where the late Sushma Swaraj, former Indian External Affairs Minister who delivered India’s UNGA speech last year, left off. She highlighted India’s progress in meeting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, particularly through increasing people’s access to safe sanitation, and she spoke of India’s efforts to mitigate the climate change threat. By homing in on India’s track record in tackling challenges that affect nearly every nation, Mr. Modi can project his country as a willing and able global partner. This isn’t to oversell the influence of the UNGA speeches. Outside of India, Mr. Modi’s address won’t exactly

be must-see TV. Further, anti-Modi protests are planned during his time in New York, and media coverage of these protests could undercut the messages articulated in his speech.

Indeed, one UNGA speech won’t eliminate the critical global narratives about India that have emerged since August 5. So long as the Kashmir lockdown remains in place, and likely after it’s lifted as well, and so long as New Delhi carries out a divisive social agenda, those narratives will be present. Still, for a government and a Prime Minister who place a premium on branding, the UNGA offers a useful opportunity to push back against growing threats to India’s image. It’s an opportunity that would be a pity to squander.

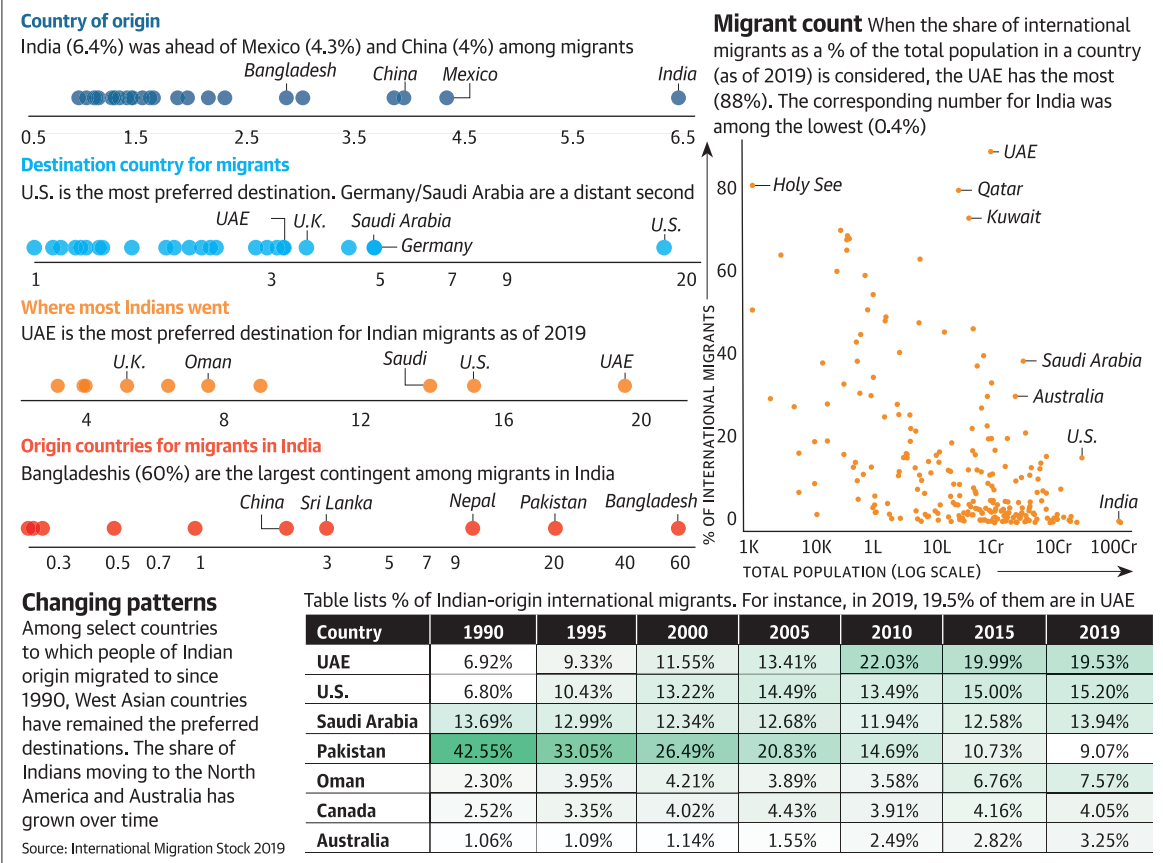
Michael Kugelman is Senior Associate for South Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre, Washington DC



DATA POINT

Home and the world

As of 2019, 17.5 million people of Indian origin are staying in other countries as immigrants. They form 6.4% of all international immigrants - the largest share among all nations. Most of them reside in West Asian countries. On the other hand, five million people from other countries are residing legally in India with over half of them hailing from Bangladesh. By Sumant Sen



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 23, 1969

Army takes charge of Ahmedabad

The Army to-day [September 22] took over complete control of Ahmedabad City and suburbs to tackle the riot situation. Troops took up positions at all strategic points. The local police, Armed Reserve Police and Home Guards will help the Army personnel to create conditions for return to normalcy. The Governor of Gujarat, Mr. Shriman Narayan, the Chief Minister, Mr. Hitendra Desai and other leaders went round the city and appealed to the local leaders to help the authorities bring back order. An official spokesman said tonight [September 22] that the situation in the disturbed areas was fast improving. Stray incidents of looting and arson were reported earlier in the riot torn city. Except for the patrolling vehicles the city presented a deserted appearance. The local station of All India Radio has been repeatedly appealing to the citizens for blood donations for treatment of the injured. The police opened fire twice. The incidents of firing were at Jagdish Park and at Gujarat Vidya-peeth where Mr. Morarji Desai had gone on a fast. An emergency meeting of the Gujarat Cabinet this evening [September 22] took stock of the violent situation. Unofficial sources placed the casualty figures at 350.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 22, 1919
(THERE WAS NO ISSUE ON SEPT. 23, 1919)

The Congress Deputation.

BY S. SATYAMURTHI

LONDON The industrial situation in England is showing symptoms of grave unrest. Mean-time, Mr. Montagu is very anxious that the Bill [on bringing political reforms in India] should go through Parliament before the end of the year. On the other hand, I heard from a good source that the prospects of that are not very encouraging. And, as I sit there listening to the taking of evidence by the Joint Committee, I cannot help feeling that there are at least some members of the Committee who are not overanxious to bring the Bill through. Lord Selborne announced some time ago as the Chairman of the Committee that his function was to see that evidence was not repeated. But sometimes he seems to forget his function. Under these circumstances, I should not be surprised, if the report of the Committee is delayed till the beginning of December. That seems to be the Chairman’s anticipation – although Mr. Montagu is, I am told, rather anxious to have it by the beginning of November. Personally I do not mind what happens, for the failure of the Bill in its present form may, in many ways, be a blessing to India.

FROM PAGE ONE

Modi, Trump set new course on terrorism

Mr. Modi's comments came even as Mr. Trump listened in the audience. On Monday, Mr. Trump is due to meet with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, and Sunday's rally appeared to have set the tone for a fairly tough line the U.S. President is likely to take during that meet.

"On India's concerns over cross-border terrorism, I think Mr. Trump went beyond the script, and certainly the expectations of the government," said senior analyst at the ORF, Ashok Mallik.

Both leaders made separate pitches to their respective domestic constituencies as well, and while PM Modi dwelt on rural sanitation, connectivity and easing business regulations, President Trump spoke of strengthening American manufacturing, rising employment figures, as well as becoming a major world energy exporter.

While neither leader re-

ferred to the trade issues between the countries, they raised optimism that they would resolve differences during their bilateral talks on Tuesday, and Mr. Trump said he looked forward to "major defence purchases" by India in the near future. He also announced that in November this year, Indian and U.S. forces will hold ever-joint tri-services exercises.

In their speeches to the audience, where Mr. Trump spoke for about 25 minutes, and Mr. Modi for about double that time, both made several warm references to each other and their friendship.

While Mr. Modi referred to Mr. Trump's warmth and wit, Mr. Trump called PM Modi a "loyal friend of the U.S." and "full of wisdom". Hinting at a possible visit to India in November, Mr. Trump said he might like to come and watch the first match by the U.S. basketball league NBA in Mumbai.

Valley's IT hub gasps as Net shutdown continues

According to another person working in the complex, the trouble started when former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti put out a series of tweets on August 5 afternoon criticising the government though Internet connections had been shut-down from the night of August 4.

"The authorities were puzzled when they saw Mehbooba Mufti tweeting amid the Internet shutdown while in detention. Till then the Internet connection was functional here. The authorities bizarrely assumed that we provided her the connection through some means.... it is not possible. Security officials visited the hub and snapped all communications saying they don't trust anyone any-

more," he said.

The IT employee said the system used by them has enough safeguards and no social media sites could be accessed from any computer due to firewalls. "We have nothing to do with social media - why would we destroy our prospects? We are operating in this conflict zone for 20 years. Is it necessary to drag everyone in the same negative narrative?" he asked.

Representatives from the IT companies have held several meetings with the police and civil authorities but to no avail.

"We were promised that Internet will be restored in a few days but it has not happened. This has severely impacted our business," he said.

Choose nationalistic parties, says Amit Shah

Mr. Shah urged party workers to reach out to every household explaining the decision on Article 370. "We abrogated Article 370 because until it was active, J&K wasn't an integral part of India," he said.

Targeting former Congress president Rahul Gandhi over his opposition to the manner in which the decision on Article 370 was ta-

ken, Mr. Shah said, "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi says Article 370 is a political matter. He has just arrived in politics. We have been giving our lives for the last three generations for Kashmir. It could be a political matter for the Congress even today. For us, it was a matter of uniting the nation, a dream that Prime Minister Modi has made true."

Rajnath warns Pakistan not to repeat mistakes

Mr. Singh blamed Article 370, and Article 35A, which arose out of it, for Jammu and Kashmir being in the throes of terrorism. "J&K will now be transformed within five years. In fact, more than three-fourths of its population wanted this provision to go. Our intentions were good and it is no surprise that our move was supported wholeheartedly by our alliance partners."

Cautioning Pakistan against promoting cross-border terrorism, in the wake of the recent developments in Kashmir, the Defence Minister said, "Talks with Pakistan will henceforth resume only after it stops promoting terrorism. And it must also keep in mind that J&K is an integral part of India. All discussions will only take place about Pak-occupied Kashmir."

₹37,000 crore tax savings for top firms

Oil and gas, financial services and consumer-facing businesses will benefit the most from the tax cuts, while export-oriented sectors including IT and pharmaceuticals may not gain much as their effective tax rates are already low thanks to tax incentives and exemptions.

The average effective tax rate for the 1,000 listed firms had crept up from 27%

in 2013-14 to 33% in 2018-19, said Crisil.

"Companies in the highest bracket account for a large proportion of taxes and would also benefit more given the higher tax rates... Nearly 40% of these (1,000) companies had an effective tax rate of over 30%," it said.

The effective tax rate for domestic corporates, inclusive of surcharges, will fall from 34.94% to 25.17%.

Slump to be key Cong. theme

Party identifies Haryana clusters, which saw scaling down of businesses, job losses

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The Congress is yet to officially come up with a campaign theme for the upcoming Haryana Assembly election but it will focus on *mandi aur taalabandi* (slowdown and shutdown) mode of the economy.

The Congress has identified specific industrial clusters where slowdown has had a direct impact in terms of scaling down of businesses and job losses.

Several sectors

Among the industrial belt and sectors identified are the plywood industry in Yamuna Nagar, cooking utensil manufacturing industry in Jagadhri, scientific equipment manufacturing clusters in Ambala, agricultural equipment factories in Karnal, textile units in Panipat, apparel export units in Gurugram



and the automobile plants in Manesar.

"I have been using *mandi* and *taalabandi* wherever I am campaigning as all these areas have seen shutdowns. But the party is in the process of crystallising the issues," said Randeep Surjewala, chief spokesperson of the party and Kaithal MLA.

The Congress said the cut in corporate taxes, announced by the Centre on Thursday, would not help as it neither created jobs nor would increase demand. "Small jobs are created by micro enterprises and traders. These sections have got

nothing. So, how can they create additional jobs," Mr. Surjewala asked. "In the rest of India, unemployment is 6%, but for us, it is as high as 29%." After being decimated in the Lok Sabha election - BJP won all the 10 seats - the Congress is fighting a battle for its survival in a State that it ruled for 10 years since 2004.

So, while its top leaders like Bhupinder Singh Hooda have backed the government on sensitive issues such as Article 370 and the demand for a National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Haryana, the Congress is trying to focus

Congress, Akali Dal in war of words

Trade charges on payment of State's share of GST to shrines

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Following the announcement of the byelection to four Assembly seats in Punjab on October 21, the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal have lost no time in firing salvos at each other.

Union Minister and SAD leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Saturday accused the Congress government of "refusing" to honour its commitment to pay the State's share in the GST to the highest sacred place of the Sikh religion, the Golden Temple. Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday hit back at

Punjab bypoll notification to be issued today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer S. Karuna Raju said on Sunday that the notification for the October 21 byelection to four Assembly seats would be issued on September 23.

He said nomination would start immediately in the Phagwara, Mukerian, Dakha and Jalalabad constituencies after the notification was is-

sued. The last date would be September 30.

Jalalabad and Phagwara fell vacant after Sukhbir Badal of the Shiromani Akali Dal and Som Parkash of the BJP were elected to the Lok Sabha. The byelection in Dakha was necessitated by the resignation of former AAP MLA H.S. Phoolka. Mukerian fell vacant last month on the death of Congress MLA Rajnish Kumar Babbi.

leging Ms. Badal of exploiting religion for her petty political gains by spreading falsehood.

"Bereft of any meaningful

political issue to fight the bypolls, Harsimrat and the rest of the Akali leadership are again resorting to outright fabrications in a desperate

'Meghalaya to add more teeth to MRSS Act'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHILLONG

Following publication of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, the Meghalaya government is contemplating adding more teeth to a law, enacted in 2016, to check illegal immigration into the State, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said on Sunday.

The State government will soon hold a consultative meeting with all political parties in the State to discuss about the proposed amendment to the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security (MRSS) Act, 2016, and once agreed, the same may be passed in the form of an ordinance, he said.

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with the 15-member Caribbean block in New York, the Vice-President of Suriname has voiced support for India's actions in Kashmir.

Speaking in response to a question, Vice-President Michael Ashwin Adhin said his country had respect for India's Kashmir action since Suriname follows the UN Charter and therefore won't interfere in the internal affairs of India.

"Suriname has included some of the UN ideals like non-interference in our Constitution. If you are able to talk to each other, it is always good. That is our position,"



Suriname Vice-President Michael Ashwin Adhin.

said Mr. Adhin in response to a question from *The Hindu* about the withdrawal of Article 370 and the subsequent tension in South Asia.

Mr. Adhin was on a private visit to Delhi ahead of Prime Minister Modi's meeting with

the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

The 15-member CARICOM has emerged as an important block of member nations whose support is crucial for

Delhi, Dhaka to boost maritime ties

Plan on to retrace historic voyage of Mukti Jodha

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India will join Bangladesh to commemorate 100 years of 'Bangabandhu', the founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 2020, and an International Fleet Review in 2021 to mark 50 years of the Liberation of Bangladesh, official sources said. Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh is on a visit to Dhaka where these issues would be discussed along with other maritime and security issues.

"Both sides are working on a proposal for a joint boat expedition with veterans from both sides to retrace the voyage of the Mukti Jodha from Khulna to Hoshangabad during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971," defence and diplomatic sources told *The Hindu*. The modalities are being worked out. Earlier the proposal was



Prime Minister Indira Gandhi with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

to conduct it in December 2018 but was put off due to elections in India.

In 1971, before the Liberation War, Mukti Bahini with training and assistance from India had launched attacks along Mongla, Chittagong and other areas in then East Pakistan.

Admiral Singh will be in Bangladesh till September

24 and the visit is intended to enhance the bilateral maritime relations, the Navy said in a statement.

Top among the discussions would be the proposal to bring Bangladesh into India's coastal radar chain network which several countries in the region have already joined.

The issue of coastal radar chain network in Bangla-

desh will be discussed to fast-track it, defence and diplomatic sources confirmed. A Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) team went there recently and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed and if all goes well, it could be signed in the next high-level bilateral visit, sources added.

As part of its foreign cooperation initiatives, the Navy already imparts extensive training to Bangladesh at all levels and also provides assistance in hydrography among others. As Dhaka looks to expand its domestic ship building industry, India has offered assistance in ship design.

The Chittagong Dry Dock Limited is looking to build six frigates for which India has offered to build some under the \$500-million Line of Credit to boost 'Make in India' efforts and also assist in building some locally. "They recently sent a team to look at our facilities," a defence official said.

Tobacco Board official opts out of U.S. event

Appearance would have violated norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Executive Director of the Tobacco Board of India cancelled her appearance at the last minute at a U.S. conference aimed at promoting tobacco, avoiding embarrassment to the government because it would have violated not only Indian laws but also World Health Organization (WHO) rules.

The issue arose when anti-tobacco and public health activists brought to the notice of the Health Ministry that an official of the Tobacco Board was going to take part in the conference. They said this was in contravention of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

Sunitha Kolaventy, Executive Director of the Tobacco Board under the Commerce Ministry, was to speak on Tuesday at the Global Tobacco and Nicotine Forum 2019 in Washington, DC. However, Health Secretary Preeti Sudan told *The Hindu* on Saturday that Ms. Kolaventy would not attend the event. As on Sunday, the event website had her listed as a speaker.

Public health

Under Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC, of which India is a signatory, "in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law."

The activists argued that the Global Tobacco and Nicotine Forum was an annual



It would have also violated WHO rules. • GETTY IMAGES

tobacco industry-supported and -organised event aimed at the promotion of the tobacco industry globally and as such, Ms. Kolaventy's appearance as a speaker at the event would be in violation of the WHO FCTC.

This is not the first time the Tobacco Board has been prevented from associating itself with the Global Tobacco and Nicotine Forum. The 2010 edition was to have been held in Bangalore with the sponsorship of the Tobacco Board. In response to a public interest litigation petition by the Institute of Public Health, the Karnataka High Court ordered the Board to desist from sponsoring the event as it violated the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act.

The law says: "No person shall take part in any advertisement which directly or indirectly suggests or promotes the use or consumption of cigarettes or any other tobacco products."

The government has run into criticism for helping the tobacco and cigarette industry by banning e-cigarettes, which were emerging as a safer alternative to conventional cigarettes.

Suriname backs India's decision on J&K

Vice-President Michael Ashwin Adhin for talks between India and Pakistan to resolve tension

India as New Delhi seeks greater support at the UN.

Crucial support

The Caribbean Community has a large population of Indian-origin people who are seen as crucial by India. The Indian government under Mr. Modi has reached out to the community through various platforms.

Pakistan is expected to raise the Kashmir issue at the UNGA and India's diplomatic counter is therefore, geared at mobilising support from all members and regional blocks.

When asked if Suriname expects the Kashmir issue to be raised at the UN, Mr Adhin said, "There is a possibility of the issue could be

raised on the margins of UNGA. Suriname will not raise the issue."

He highlighted that Suriname always stood for dialogue and reconciliation especially in the Latin American region, where several countries like Venezuela and Nicaragua have asked for Suriname's help in peace-building. Mr. Adhin said the requests showed the support that his country enjoys in the region for being impartial and for respecting constructive approach to end conflicts.

"We are known for the Surinamese way which is meant for mutual respect and conserving our historically diverse regional culture," said Mr Adhin.

No plans to revise fiscal deficit target: Sitharaman

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

The government will not revise the fiscal deficit target immediately and is not planning any spending cuts at this stage, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday.

The government cut corporate tax rates on Friday, which will reduce revenue by ₹1.45 trillion in the cur-

rent fiscal year. But Ms. Sitharaman said the government would only review the fiscal deficit target closer to the 2020-21 Budget. "The decision will be taken later," she told presspersons at her residence in New Delhi.

She added that the also said the government would decide on additional market borrowings for the second half of 2019-20 later.

APPEAL

I, Vijay aged 7 years need your support to bring a new hope to my life. I suffer from Relapse B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and require Rs. 6,00,000/- towards Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Donations sent by Ch / D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch / D.D. / NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: SYNB0006018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. (Please do not mention patient name on the Cheque).

All Correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 28, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324. E-mail ID: womenswelfare syndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfare syndicate.org

Vijay



All that jazz: The 50,000-strong crowd at the NRG Stadium in Houston flashes the NaMo sign moments before the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, with folk artists pumping up the excitement levels. ■ NYT, PTI & AFP



IN BRIEF



Houston's keys with PM
HOUSTON
Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Sunday presented with the keys to Houston city by its Mayor Sylvester Turner on his arrival at the 'Howdy Modi' event here as a mark of respect and the long standing India-Houston ties.



Dosti flag on lectern
HOUSTON
In a rare move reflective of India-U.S. friendship, the Trump administration replaced the presidential seal with an "India-U.S. dosti flag" emblem on the presidential lectern. This was a pleasant surprise to many at the 'Howdy Modi' event.



NBA game in Mumbai
HOUSTON
The U.S. President on Sunday announced that India will soon have access to another world-class American product. "Next week, thousands of people will gather in Mumbai to watch the first-ever NBA basketball game in India," he said.



Belated birthday wishes
HOUSTON
U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday wished Prime Minister Modi a 'Happy Birthday' at the 'Howdy, Modi!' event. He turned 69 last week. Mr. Trump said this marked 'another milestone' for him. ■ PTI

PM meets Pandit delegation, promises a 'new Kashmir'

Indebted to Modi government, the 17-member team says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOUSTON
Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a special interaction with a 17-member delegation of Kashmiri Pandits from across the U.S. and assured them of "building a new Kashmir", as part of his week-long visit to the U.S.
"New winds are blowing in Kashmir and we will all build a new Kashmir together that will be for everyone," he told the delegation.
Mr. Modi also thanked the community for their "patience for over 30 years."
Earlier, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Ravesh Kumar tweeted: "In Houston, a delegation of the Kashmiri Pandit community met the Prime Minister. They unequivocally supported the steps being taken for the progress of India and empowerment of every Indian."



Making a promise: PM Narendra Modi exchanging greetings with a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits in Houston. ■ PTI

The delegation said that their 700,000 community members were "indebted" to Mr. Modi's government.
The delegation also presented a memorandum to Mr. Modi, requesting him to set up a task force under the Union Home Ministry to bring the community together, develop the region and repatriate Kashmiri Pandits.
"Modiji brought smiles to the faces of our Kashmiri Pandit delegation, by promising a new Kashmir that we will build together, for everyone," Rajiv Pandit, who was part of the delegation, said.
Another delegate, Rakesh Kaul, said that the meeting was important to request the PM to initiate steps to address the ethnic cleansing of the community.
The PM met teams of the Dawoodi Bohra community.

Ahead of 'Howdy, Modi!,' India struck big-ticket LNG deal

Updating an MoU signed in February, Petronet to invest \$2.5 billion in Tellurian Inc., giving India access to up to 5 million tonnes of gas a year



PM Narendra Modi at a meeting with CEOs from the energy sector in Houston. ■ PTI

vironment," said Tellurian Inc. president and CEO Meg Gentle in a statement after signing the new MoU.
Officials said that while the MoU still needed to be negotiated, the announcement had symbolic value at the start of the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S., showing India's intent to become a major energy buyer for American companies.
Ahead of Sunday's rally with U.S. President Donald Trump, the Prime Minister met heads of 17 energy companies to speak about the potential of the Indian market and listened to their views on the challenges of supplying oil and also investing in India.
According to a senior official, the companies were "appreciative" of India's purchases of U.S. oil and gas, which have more than dou-

berger, Cheniere, Total and other big energy companies, were problems with arbitration and the dispute resolution mechanism in India.
Some asked Mr. Modi to consider a unified Ministry for all energy issues instead of separate Ministries for Pe-

troleum and Natural Gas, coal and renewable energy to streamline processes.
Upbeat on economy
"The CEOs lauded the government's efforts towards ease of doing business, steps taken towards deregulation

in the [energy] sector ... and were upbeat on the Indian economy," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Ravesh Kumar said.
Government officials said the massive investment from India in Tellurian's \$29 billion Driftwood project would "create 50,000 direct and indirect jobs" in the U.S., and would support manufacturing in 18 U.S. States.
However, senior officials who were present at the meeting refused to comment on how soon India would be able to consume the amount of LNG the MoU insulated, in order to justify the investment.
In 2011, GAIL (India) Ltd., a stakeholder in Petronet, had already entered into a 20-year contract to buy 5.8 million tonnes a year of U.S. LNG, split between Dominion Energy and Cheniere

Energy, but India has had to resell much of its American intake due to lower demand.
The announcement of the Tellurian MoU, which was reported by *The Hindu* on Friday, was anticipated as a "big-ticket" investment announcement during the Prime Minister's U.S. visit.
Meanwhile, Commerce Ministry officials are still negotiating with the U.S. Trade Representative's office in Washington in the hope of announcing a limited trade deal next week, which is expected to be announced after the bilateral meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump on Tuesday. Officials are discussing lifting of tariffs, and a possible restoration of export subsidies for India under the Generalised System of Preferences, which the Trump administration withdrew in June.

After Houston, it's a busy New York week

Modi will attend 40 meetings, culminating in the UN General Assembly address

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
NEW YORK
After a weekend in Houston, Texas, focused mainly on the diaspora, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's week begins in New York City with the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
The highlight of Mr. Modi's packed schedule will be the India-U.S. bilateral interaction, carrying forward the weekend engagement of President Donald Trump's participation at the "Howdy, Modi!" diaspora rally.



Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago).
Mr. Modi will be accompanied by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, MoS V. Muraleedharan and Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar. The Prime Minister and Mr. Jaishankar have a total of approximately 75 meetings scheduled, with the Prime Minister participating in over 40 of these.
Mr. Jaishankar will lead the Indian side in meetings of the Quadrilateral Dialogue, BRICS and SAARC on Thursday.
Mr. Modi will start his

week by addressing the UN Climate Action Summit on Monday where he is expected to outline India's environmental and climate action policy, in their domestic and international aspects, Mr. Akbaruddin said. Mr. Modi will announce that India has surpassed the solar power targets from the Paris Climate Agreement.
Consistent with a green theme, he will inaugurate, on Tuesday, the Gandhi Solar Park, an installation of solar panels and a 'green roof' at the UN headquarters with a projected annual output of 86,244 kWh/year as per India's UN Mission.

with President Trump, after the latter has delivered his UNGA address. The tone for this meeting was set over the weekend with the joint participation of both leaders in the Houston rally and the exchanging of an (updated) MoU between Indian LNG company Petronet and U.S. energy company Tellurian Inc. Petronet intends to invest \$2.5 billion in Tellurian Inc.'s in return for rights to up to 5 million tonnes of LNG per year over 40 years.
Mr. Modi's week will end with his UNGA address on Friday morning.
India has the seventh slot that day, followed by Norway, Singapore and then Pakistan.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOUSTON
U.S. Senator and Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders said on Sunday in a newspaper article that the Modi-Trump rally is happening at a time when Kashmir remains under lockdown. "We will hear much about the friendship between the American and Indian peoples," the 77-year-old leader said in an opinion piece in *Houston Chronicle*.
"However, there will be a deafening silence" on the "human rights crisis" in Kashmir, he added.

Sikh delegates thank PM for decision on blacklist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOUSTON (U.S.)
A 50-member delegation of Sikhs from across the U.S. met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here and thanked him for removing the names of over 300 community members from blacklist.
The Centre last week re-

moved names of 312 Sikh foreign nationals involved in anti-India activities after reviewing the Adverse List.
The team also presented a memorandum listing their demands and thanked Mr. Modi for bringing to justice some perpetrators of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

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1. UNIT: M.M. COMPLEX: PTE No:ENQ / 19-20 / 001815 / MM01 (03), Dt: 12-09-019: 6 items of output pinion. Due date of opening: 15-10-2019
2. PTE No:ENQ / 19-20 / 001719 / MM01 (03), Dt: 12-09-2019: 3 items of Hydraulic cylinder. Due date of opening: 15-10-2019
3. ENQ / 19-20 / 001852 / MM22 (01), Dt: 13-09-2019: 3 D Terrestrial laser Scanner - 1 No. Due date of opening: 16-10-2019
4. ENQ / 19-20 / 001779 / MM05 (05), Dt: 17-09-2019: Procurement of 2 items of complete set of gear box Due date of opening: 18-10-2019
5. ENQ / 19-20 / 001805 / MM05 (05), Dt: 17-09-2019: Procurement of 7 items of Idlers Due date of opening: 21-10-2019
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NOTICE INVITING E-BID
Dated: 16-09-2019
Bid Ref. No.:F 21(31) DH/NHM/WHS/Reg./2019-20/4026
UBN: HOR1920WLRC00047

Rajasthan Horticulture Development Society (RHDS), Directorate of Horticulture, Jaipur on behalf of Government of Rajasthan invites e-Bid of reputed firms /manufacturer, who meet the minimum eligibility criteria as specified in the bid document for lining of on farm water reservoirs with use of HDPE plastic films/ Polyethylene films/ HDPE Geo membrane at the farmer's fields under Horticulture Development Schemes during 2019-20 on e-proc portal.

Name of the work	Rate contract of reputed firms/ manufacturers for lining of on farm water reservoirs with use of HDPE plastic films/Polyethylene films/ HDPE Geo membrane at the farmer's fields under Horticulture Development Schemes during 2019-20 . Approximate cost of work is Rs. 1660.00 Lakh (for 500 micron film Rs. 1622.00 Lakh & 300 micron film Rs. 38.00 Lakh).
Cost of Bid Document	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only)
Processing Fee	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only)
Bid Security	Rs. 33.20 Lakh (Thirty Three Lakh Twenty Thousand only)
Bid document download Start Date/Time & Bid Submission Start Date/Time	19-09-2019 at 05-30 p.m. onwards
Bid document download end Date/Time	21-10-2019 at 05-00 p.m.
Bid Submission end Date/Time	21-10-2019 at 5-30 p.m.
Submission date of bid document Fee, Processing Fee, Bid Security (physically)	From 19-09-2019, 5-30 p.m. to 21-10-2019, 5-30 p.m. at Room No. 361A, IIrd Floor Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur - 302005 (Rajasthan)
Technical Bid Opening Date /Time	22-10-2019 at 11-00 a.m.
Detailed bid document, Corrigendum's Addendums etc. may be seen and downloaded from Websites	http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in http://Department of Horticulture.rajasthan.gov.in www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in

Mission Director
Rajasthan, Jaipur
DIPR/C/7784

EASTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LTD
(A Govt. of Andhra Pradesh undertaking)
Corporate Office, Near Gurudwara Junction, TPT Colony, Seethammadhara, Visakhapatnam-530013
Tel : +91(0)891 2582525, E-mail- apepdclpiu@gmail.com
e-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender Ref. No: (i) ED/WBP/PFA/SS HQ/NCB-01/2019-20
e-Tenders are invited through Central Public Procurement Portal from the eligible bidders for the works of " Extension of 24Hrs 3 phase supply to sub-station head quarter villages in APEPDCL by Erecting separate 11 kV feeders, VCBs, distribution transformers and connected LT lines on TURKEY basis" with financial assistance from World Bank. The Bidders may visit www.eprocure.gov.in for detailed tender documents on or after 23, September, 2019.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ WB PROJECTS
APEPDCL : VISAKHAPATANAM
CC bills can be paid thru PayTm and also POS machines at our counters at ERO's for cashless transactions

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SRIRHARIKOTA-524124.
E-TENDER BRIEF NOTICE
e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/ M 1987029, T 1987030 Date: 18/09/2019
1. On Behalf of the President of India, Item-rate/ Turnkey tender is invited through e-tendering for the following work(s).

Sl. No.	Description	Details	Details
1	Title of Work	Package (C1): SPP Augmentation Project (SPAG) at SDSC SHAR (Civil, PH & Road works for 4 buildings)	Providing Granite flooring at Space for exhibits area in Launch View Gallery at Visitors Complex SDSC SHAR
2	NIT No & Date	CMG/C/M 1987029, Dt:18/09/2019	CMG/C/ T 1987030, Dt:18/09/2019
3	Estimated Cost put to tender	₹ 205 Lakhs	₹ 104 Lakhs
4	Period of Completion	09 Months	02 Months
5	Period during which the tender documents can be requested	From: 25/09/2019,10:00 Hrs To : 08/10/2019,14:00 Hrs	From: 27/09/2019,10:00 Hrs To : 07/10/2019,14:00 Hrs
6	Last date and time for uploading of tenders	11/10/2019,14:30 Hrs	10/10/2019,14:30 Hrs

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website www.isro.gov.in / www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. For further details and purchase of tender documents visit www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. Ph:08623 226447, 226420.
Group Director, CMG, SDSC SHAR

Rouhani warns West to stay out of Gulf

Iranian President promises to unveil a regional peace plan at this week's high-level meetings at the UN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Iran's President called on Sunday on Western powers to leave the security of the Persian Gulf to regional nations led by Tehran, criticising a new U.S.-led coalition patrolling the region's waterways as nationwide parades showcased the Islamic Republic's military arsenal.

President Hassan Rouhani separately promised to unveil a regional peace plan at this week's upcoming high-level meetings at the United Nations, which comes amid heightened Mideast tensions following a series of attacks, including a missile-and-drone assault on Saudi Arabia's oil industry.

The U.S. alleges Iran carried out the September 14 attack on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities, which caused oil prices to spike by the biggest percentage since the 1991



Military might: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and military officials at the "Sacred Defence Week" parade in Tehran. It marks the start of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980. ■AFP

Gulf War. While Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthis rebels claimed the assault, Saudi Arabia says it was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

For its part, Iran denies being responsible and has warned any retaliatory attack targeting it will result in

an "all-out war." That's as it has begun enriching uranium beyond the terms of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from over a year earlier.

Mr. Rouhani spoke from a riser at the parade in Tehran,

with uniformed officers from the country's military and its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard beside him. The cleric later watched as goose-stepping soldiers carrying sub-machine guns and portable missile launchers drove past as part of "Holy Defense

Week," which marks the start of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980.

Mr. Rouhani said Iran was willing to "extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood" to Persian Gulf nations and was "even ready to forgive their past mistakes."

"Those who want to link the region's incidents to the Islamic Republic of Iran are lying like their past lies that have been revealed," the President said. "If they are truthful and seek security in the region, they must not send weapons, fighter jets, bombs and dangerous arms to the region." He added that the U.S. and Western nations should "distance" themselves from the region.

"Your presence has always been a calamity for this region and the farther you go from our region, the more security would come for our region," he said.

Iran to release British-flagged tanker

REUTERS
STOCKHOLM

Stena Impero, the British-flagged tanker detained by Iran on July 19, may be released within hours, the head of the Swedish firm that owns the vessel said on Sunday.

The Stena Impero was detained by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in the Strait of Hormuz waterway for alleged marine violations, two weeks after Britain seized an Iranian tanker off Gibraltar. That vessel was released in August.

Swedish public broadcaster SVT quoted Stena Bulk chief executive Erik Hanell as saying: "We have received information this morning that it seems like they will release Stena Impero within a few hours. So we understand that the political decision to release the ship has been taken."

Hong Kong police foil bid to disrupt airport

Protesters deface Chinese flag



Police officers detaining an anti-government protester in Sha Tin, Hong Kong, on Sunday. ■REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Pro-democracy protesters clashed with riot police outside a mall on Sunday, with some activists vandalising a nearby subway station and defacing a Chinese flag, but plans to disrupt the airport did not materialise.

Police fired brief volleys of tear gas and rubber bullets in the northern town of Sha Tin late Sunday afternoon, capping a day which saw thousands rally peacefully inside a mall before the mood soured.

Authorities reduced rail and bus links to the city's airport while police stepped up security checks in a successful bid to stop a crowd from massing at the bustling transport hub.

The airport – the world's eighth busiest – has become a frequent target for demonstrators pushing for greater democratic rights and police accountability.

'Stress test'
Online forums used by the largely leaderless movement had called for a "stress test" of the airport on Sunday, code for disrupting travel links or occupying buildings.

Instead thousands gathered inside a mall in the northern town of Sha Tin to sing protest songs and make origami cranes, the latest rally in what has now been 16 consecutive weekends of protests and clashes.

Many shops inside the complex shuttered but the unsanctioned rally remained civil for much of the afternoon.

"Even if we are very tired, we can't give up on our rights," a teacher at the rally, who have her surname as Ching, told AFP.

"If it (the movement) stretches to 100 days, 200 days or even 1,000 days and we still don't get what we want, we will continue to come out."

Tensions rose later in the afternoon. Masked activists paraded a Chinese flag through the mall that had been torn down from a nearby government building. It was later thrown into a nearby river.

Groups of masked protesters then vandalised ticket machines in Sha Tin's subway before riot police rushed in to close the station down.

Police snatch squads made multiple arrests.

Travel firm Thomas Cook battles to keep afloat

REUTERS
LONDON

The British government has plans in place to bring home stranded holidaymakers if Thomas Cook goes out of business, an event that would likely spark chaotic scenes at resorts and airports around the world.

The bosses of the world's oldest travel company were still meeting lenders and creditors in London on Sunday to try to thrash out a last-ditch deal to keep the company afloat.

The company's board will then meet in the early evening to decide the company's fate, with it potentially going

into administration in the early hours of Monday.

Running hotels, resorts, airlines and cruises, Thomas Cook has 600,000 customers on holiday, meaning governments and insurance companies could be forced to step in and bring them home if the company goes out of business. The government and the aviation regulator have drawn up a plan to step in and use other airlines to bring Britons home if needed.

It needs to find another £200 million to see it through the winter months when it needs to pay hotels for their summer services.

Israel's Arab party backs Gantz for PM

Avigdor Lieberman says he will endorse neither Netanyahu nor Gantz

REUTERS
JERUSALEM

Israel's Arab-dominated Joint List party moved on Sunday to back the centre-left bloc of Benny Gantz, who is challenging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing alliance, to form a new government.

With final results all but in, neither Mr. Gantz nor Mr. Netanyahu command a majority in 120-seat Parliament, so the Arab List's decision to end its usual policy of withholding support for any candidate in the wake of elections could nudge President Reuven Rivlin to ask Mr.

Gantz to form a government.

Mr. Rivlin, who began consulting with party leaders on Sunday to discuss who should lead the country after no clear victor emerged from Tuesday's election, suggested Mr. Gantz and Mr. Netanyahu join forces.

No party drawn from the 21% Arab minority has ever been part of an Israeli government. But an increased turnout saw the Joint List win 13 seats, making it the third largest grouping.

This would provide an outlet to voice Arab complaints of discrimination in Israeli society and give a big-



Ayman Odeh

ger platform to Arab parties.

"We want to bring an end to the era of Netanyahu, so we recommend that Benny Gantz be the one to form the next government," party

head Ayman Odeh said.

Joint List's support does not mean it will sit in the governing coalition, but its backing gives Mr. Gantz's centre-left bloc 57 seats, compared to Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing bloc of 55.

Mr. Netanyahu denounced the Arab party support of Mr. Gantz.

Meanwhile, former Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman, whose party Yisrael Beiteinu won eight seats, told Mr. Rivlin on Sunday he would not recommend either candidate. He could play a kingmaker's role in shaping the final outcome.

ELSEWHERE



EU's Juncker says not too late for Brexit deal

MADRID
There is still time for London and Brussels to make a Brexit deal, European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker said in remarks published on Sunday, as the clock runs down to a October 31 deadline. AFP

Tanzania not sharing details on Ebola: WHO

NAIROBI
The World Health Organization has accused Tanzania of failing to provide information on suspected cases of Ebola in the country. East African nations have been on high alert over an outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo. AFP

Doctors, nurses can work in U.K. sans TOEFL, IELTS

OET enough for health care professionals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Doctors, nurses, dentists and mid-wives who wish to practice in the U.K. will no longer have to appear for English language tests like TOEFL and IELTS as the country will now accept scores of Occupational English Test (OET), which the candidates have to anyway clear for registering with the relevant health care regulator.

The OET is an international English language test that assesses the language communication skills of health care professionals, who seek to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

The candidates had to earlier take OET to register

with Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Medical Council, which are the two health care boards in the U.K., as well as TOEFL or IELTS like exam to apply for visa.

"The U.K. Home Office has streamlined English language testing ensuring that doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives, who have already passed an English language test accepted by the relevant professional body, do not have to sit another test before entry to the U.K. on a Tier 2 visa," said Sujata Stead, CEO, Cambridge Box-hill Language Assessment, which conducts the OET.

The change will apply to all Tier 2 (General) visa applications submitted from October 1.

Sirisena forms panel to probe Easter attacks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena on Sunday ordered a fresh inquiry into the Easter suicide bombings that hit Sri Lanka killing at least 258 people.

Mr. Sirisena said the commission has wide judicial powers to gather evidence on those responsible for the attack, and to probe security and intelligence lapses. The five-member panel is to report back with recommendations within three months.

The inquiry was launched amid fears voiced by the Catholic Church that a parliamentary probe and police investigation into the attacks are not independent.

Trump says Biden was subject of his call to Ukraine President

He pressed Zelensky for damaging information on his rival's son

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday confirmed he did discuss former Vice-President Joe Biden and corruption allegations in a phone call with Ukraine's leader, as Mr. Trump's opponents called for his impeachment.

A whistleblower's complaint sparked off accusations that Mr. Trump had sought to persuade President Volodymyr Zelensky to provide damaging information on Mr. Biden, Mr. Trump's possible 2020 election challenger.

Mr. Trump confirmed that the conversation, held in July, had addressed alleged



Joe Biden

corruption involving Mr. Biden and his son Hunter, and he floated the possibility that a transcript could be released.

"We had a very great conversation, very straight, very honest conversation. I hope they can put it out," Mr. Trump said, repeating that

he had done nothing wrong.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Mr. Trump pressed Mr. Zelensky about eight times on the call to investigate possible corruption involving Mr. Hunter, who worked with a Ukrainian natural gas company while his father was Vice-President.

Mr. Biden said that Mr. Trump's actions appeared "to be an overwhelming abuse of power."

Influential congressman Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, on Sunday said that his own reservations about impeachment were fading over Mr. Trump's Ukraine call.

26 killed in Pakistan bus crash

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

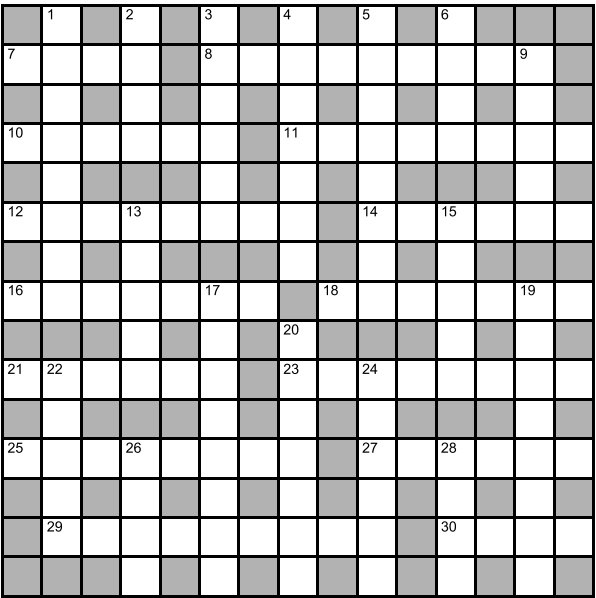
A bus crash in northern Pakistan killed 26 people on Sunday after its brakes failed on a winding mountain road, police said.

Another 20 passengers were injured when the bus smashed head-on into a dirt embankment.

Such road accidents are common in Pakistan, where motorists largely disregard traffic rules and safety standards on worn-out roads. Last month, a speeding bus fell off a road into a river in the northwest, killing 24 passengers.

Rescue efforts were hampered by the remote terrain near the town of Chilas on the route between the cities of Rawalpindi and Skardu.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12737



■ ACROSS

- 7 Complain: "It's a small bed" (4)
- 8 Making clear evil anger is bad (9)
- 10 Ms. Earhart, America's enterprising lady in air, for starters (6)
- 11 Mac's Croatian dressing (8)
- 12 If grants can be organised for firing from aircraft at ground targets ... (8)

- 14 Goes around bistro redevelopment (6)
- 16 Little bone of sinuous snake is cut lengthwise easily, in the beginning (7)
- 18 Legendary female I dream about after end of film (7)
- 21 Walks or stays? (6)
- 23 Increases soldiers in August mobilisation, after loss of uniform (8)
- 25 Pub date dances around commencement of soiree in capital (8)
- 27 Comedian Hardy's duck's organ (6)
- 29 Ok, a sarong is designed for animals down under (9)
- 30 Flog political functionary (4)

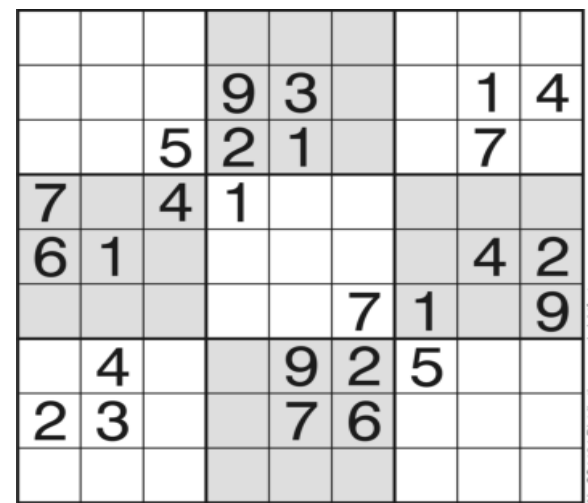
■ DOWN

- 1 Burns' steamer sails behind cape (8)
- 2 Isabella hides murder victim (4)
- 3 Revolting Bulgarians throw buns to get sheep (6)

(set by Incognito)

- 4 Anger on small road is normal (7)
- 5 Pub note rewritten; includes one male singer (8)
- 6 Dance bar doesn't have love for gramophone record, for example (4)
- 9 General allowance (5)
- 13 House-trained hornets fly away excitedly! Goodbye! (5)
- 15 Enigma solver's explosive device, I hear (5)
- 17 Girl hugs star in American city (3,5)
- 19 Riptide flows around head of Navajo brave (8)
- 20 Sketch box containing egg (7)
- 22 Main container (5)
- 24 Great river carp (6)
- 26 Champ's new skin disorder (4)
- 28 State: Moon's over Washington (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12736								
G	U	M	D	R	O	P	S	
A	U	U	I		P	N	E	
R	E	S	O	N	A	N	C	E
L	H	A	K	R	S	O	T	
I	S	R	A	E	L	I	R	E
C	O	A	N	O	E			R
	O	C	T	O	G	E	N	A
	M	I	S	E	T			B
P	A	S	I	N	C	H	R	O
O	K	I	N	A				P
T	S	N	A		S	C	I	E
A	E	S	O		S	W	E	A
T	U	L			S	H	E	
O	L	E	V	E	L	A	S	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	9	8	3	7	2	5	1
1	2	5	4	6	9	8	7	3
7	3	8	2	5	1	9	6	4
3	7	1	6	2	4	5	8	9
9	4	2	5	1	8	7	3	6
8	5	6	7	9	3	1	4	2
6	8	3	1	7	2	4	9	5
2	9	4	3	8	5	6	1	7
5	1	7	9	4	6	3	2	8

FAITH

Bhakti for emancipation

Devotion is an overwhelming experience felt in one's inner being when the human soul longs to reach the Lotus feet of the Lord. The restless human mind is given to fear and all kinds of phobias when it is involved in worldly affairs. All this only makes one further rooted in the cycle of birth. Akura exemplifies the truth that true devotion and jnana are complementary and not antithetical, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse.

Kamsa entrusts Akura with the mission of bringing Krishna and Balarama to Mathura. In all humility, Akura understands that though he is worldly minded and engaged in the service of Kamsa, he is now most lucky and fortunate to be able to see Krishna in person. He sets forth to Gokula, with his mind fully engrossed in Krishna. Akura ruminates on the greatness of the Lord and His incarnations that provide a chance for ordinary people to know about the Highest Truth. His mind revolves around his hopes and expectations about the Lord. He also wishes for the removal of all obstacles. So much takes place in his mind about the forthcoming meeting with Krishna. As he enters Gokula, he feels the vibrations of the place sanctified by the Lord's presence. He sees the footprints of the Lord on the ground and he rolls on the sands to savour the divine contact with His Lotus feet. He is caught in the river of spiritual joy. Adi Sankara, the famous exponent of Advaita Siddhanta, extols bhakti as the state of mind that finds solace in God even as the rivers find their refuge in the ocean. He asserts that bhakti is the best path for emancipation of the human soul. The mind gets attracted to the Lord even as iron filings gets drawn to the magnet or when the creeper reaches out to the tree for support.

ASK US



VIDYA BALA

Q. My wife is a senior citizen (under 80 years) and I am a super senior citizen (80 plus). We have limited income and that too, only from interest. So, we would like to plan for getting the maximum amount by investing in very safe avenues. The limit of investment in Senior Citizens Saving Scheme is ₹15 lakh. Can you please let me know whether both of us can individually invest in this, having the other as nominee? Is this legally permissible? Is there any other safe scheme which would give a return of more than 8%?

SUBRAMANIAN V

A. Yes, you can individually invest ₹15 lakh each in Post Office Senior Citizens' Scheme. So, you can effectively invest up to ₹30 lakh. Since the entire amount invested is attributed to the first account holder, you can also hold it jointly with each of you being the first holder in two different accounts and the other a joint holder. One other good scheme for senior citizens is LIC's Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana for citizens aged 60 years, introduced by the Government of India. It has an 8% p.a interest payable monthly (effectively 8.3% p.a). It is also available as quarterly, half yearly and annual payouts. The policy term is 10 years and the maximum amount that can be invested is ₹15 lakh. The purchase price will be refunded to the nominee/legal heir on the passing away of the policy holder. On survival of the pensioner over the policy term too, the purchase price shall be paid back with the final pension instalment.

Q. I am shortly due for a VRS in view of some health issues. I hope to invest most of the funds into totally secure and guaranteed returns but I am aware that unless I invest a little bit in mutual funds, NCDs or other market-linked schemes, my family and I may not be able to cope with the increasing cost of inflation in the future. Kindly advise. In one of your recent replies you talked about SEBI advisers. How do I choose a suitable one?

SUKUMAR P

A. You are right in recognising that you will need market-linked products like mutual funds to ensure that your corpus lasts longer. It is a good idea to seek a registered investment adviser's help to aid in drawing up a plan as follows: your monthly cash flow plan, your requirement for medical expenses and any amount for emergencies and any financial goals for your family. You must then identify how much you need to invest in low-risk fixed income products, to meet your monthly expenses for the next 3-5 years. The remaining corpus is what should be used to grow, until such time you need to tap it for your monthly requirements. You can visit https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=13 to find a RIA near your place, in the city you live in. Look for a person who has understanding across personal finance products and not just mutual funds and insurance. Understand if the fee the adviser charges includes not just a planning fee but to also regularly monitor your investments.

Q. I am 24 and I earn ₹35,000 per month. My expenditure is ₹5,000 per month. How can I invest the remaining ₹30,000 to get maximum returns in 5 to 6 years?

BHAWNA KHATRI

A. You are starting with a good sum. Given your age, you should invest in market-linked investments such as mutual funds and stocks. To start with, consider consistently performing multi-cap equity funds with some low-risk debt fund, using the systematic investment plan (SIP). Do not stop SIPs if you see the market going down. (The author is co-founder, Redwood Research)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

How side-pocketing affects you

If debt mutual funds create side-pockets and offer investors an exit window without load, should you sell?

AARATI KRISHNAN

If you're an investor in debt mutual funds, you're probably puzzling over reports on 'side-pocketing' of bonds that figure in fund portfolios. Last week, UTI Credit Risk Fund and Reliance Ultra Short Duration Fund announced their intent to side-pocket bonds issued by Altico Capital after it as rated default grade by an agency. Previously, Sundaram Mutual Fund announced, and then backtracked on, its decision to side-pocket bonds from the troubled DHFL. If you're confused by what all this means to you, here are a few answers:

When debt funds face a downgrade or default on a bond they own, they write down its value in the NAV. Why is side-pocketing needed?

When debt funds write down the value of a bond, they usually aren't sure if the bond is a complete dud or will realise some value later. But in the interests of conservatism, SEBI rules require funds to write down the value of such bonds

by 25, 50, 75 or even 100% in their portfolios, based on their credit ratings. When a fund takes such write-downs, the NAV takes an immediate blow. But if the issuer of the bond later pays up his dues, the fund will then have to increase its NAV to account for the repayment. In such cases, investors in the scheme who exit early taking NAV losses would fail to benefit from the recovery.

On the other hand, new investors who entered the scheme after the write-down would stand to pocket unfair gains on a bond they never owned. Segregating downgraded bonds in a fund's portfolio into a 'side-pocket' avoids such unfair treatment. When a scheme side-pockets a doubtful bond, any recovery from the bond is distributed to all investors who were invested

in the scheme when the downgrade happened. Investors who got into a scheme after the downgrade, get to buy only into the main portfolio excluding the doubtful bond.

When and what kind of bonds are debt funds supposed to segregate?

SEBI rules allow debt funds to side-pocket only those bonds that are downgraded below investment grade by rating agencies. When a bond rated BBB or above is pegged down, it turns from an investment grade bond to a non-investment grade one.

Fund houses are required to decide on side-pocketing and secure the approval of their trustees for it, on the day the downgrade happens.

When a bond is downgraded, why do some fund houses announce side-

pockets while others don't?

SEBI has not made side-pocketing compulsory for all bonds that turn non-investment grade. This decision is left to the discretion of the AMC and its trustees. So, when a bond slips into non-investment grade, some AMCs may write down its value and hang on, while others may side-pocket it.

What happens when a side-pocket is created?

The scheme separates its portfolio into the good portion, consisting of investment grade bonds, and the bad portion comprising the downgraded bond. The NAV of the scheme will be carved out to the extent of the value (after write down) of the bad bond. All existing investors in the scheme will receive one new unit in the side-pocketed portfolio in addition to existing units in the scheme.

No transactions are allowed in these new units. So, if you re-

deem the fund after side-pocketing, you will only receive the NAV of the main portfolio. But if the scheme eventually recovers money from the bond, they will get automatically redeemed and you will receive a payout. The trustees of the AMC are supposed to monitor the recovery of proceeds in the side-pocketed bonds.

AMCs have put out newspaper ads about side-pocketing, offering a one-month exit window. Does this mean the scheme will take a hit from a bad bond? Do I need to exit it?

No, you shouldn't. The ad is only an enabling provision that tells you that the scheme may, in future, use side-pocketing for some of its debt schemes if they take a hit on their bonds. When MFs make changes to their fundamental attributes, SEBI rules require them

to give their investors a one-month exit window (without load). Given that SEBI's side-pocketing rules are recent and most AMCs are introducing this feature into their debt funds for the first time, they have been advertising and offering investors a one-month exit window. Once all fund houses incorporate these enabling provisions into their scheme attributes, they can go ahead with side-pocketing in future without seeking the okay of their investors.

If I don't check MF websites or newspaper ads, how will I know if a debt scheme is creating side-pockets?

On the day a scheme decides to side-pocket a bond, it is required to issue a press release and send an SMS as well as email to all its investors. It must also inform investors as soon as it secures trustee approval for this. On the day the announcement is made, all new purchases or sales of units in the scheme are frozen.



TAX-FREE BONDS: HUDCO

Bonding with safety

HUDCO's instruments come with high rating; returns are higher than bank FDs'

DHURAIVEL GUNASEKARAN

Over the past 12-15 months, a spate of corporate bond downgrades and defaults has made fixed-income investors jittery. Bonds issued by IL&FS, DHFL, Essel Group and Reliance ADA Group were all downgraded sharply. Such downgrades led to a sharp erosion in the value of the investment products that held these distressed assets in their portfolio. Mutual funds, insurance schemes, NPS and EPFO were among those that took a hit.

Capital safety has now become a prime concern for retail investors.

Investors looking for debt instruments that provide capital safety and decent returns can consider tax-free bonds available in the secondary market. Since these entities are backed by the government, investments in their tax-free bonds enjoy capital safety.

Further, the bonds issued by most of these companies are rated with the highest grade of AAA.

Tax-free bonds

Conservative investors, including retirees, looking for capital safety can consider buying the tax-free bonds issued by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) that are

*Price as on Sept 13, 2019 ** yield-to-maturity						
Series	Coupon Rate (%)	Residual Maturity (years)	Price (₹)*	YTM (%)**	No of days traded over last one month	Daily average volume (units)
HUDCO050322	8.10%	2.48	1,099.10	5.59%	20	1,121
876HUDCO28	8.76%	9.12	1,317.00	5.40%	18	654
751HUDCO28	7.51%	8.43	1,158.05	5.74%	16	364
876HUDCO24	8.76%	4.34	1,164.11	5.94%	16	308
901HUDCO34	9.01%	14.35	1,366.50	5.82%	16	350

Source: HDFC Securities

In a nutshell

- HUDCO is a Miniratna focussing on housing needs of economically weaker sections
- Government supports HUDCO by allowing access to low-cost funds and extending guarantees
- HUDCO has issued 32 series of tax-free bonds in total

available in the secondary market.

HUDCO issued 32 series of tax-free bonds totally, with varying maturities of 10, 15 and 20 years in FY12, FY13, FY14 and FY16.

Many series are actively traded on the BSE and the NSE with relatively higher yield-to-maturity (YTM) and liquidity.

According to data compiled by HDFC Securities' retail research, five series of HUDCO tax-free bonds, with

YTM (yield-to-maturity) of 5.4-5.9%, are actively traded on both the exchanges. For instance, the HUDCO N3 series (ISIN INE031A07832), with a coupon rate of 8.1% and residual maturity of 2.5 years, trades with a YTM of 5.6% on the NSE.

The daily average traded volume in the series over the past one month has been 1,120 units.

Since the interest paid by tax-free bonds are exempt from income tax, the current yield of 5.8% translates to 8% of pre-tax yield for investors in the 30% bracket. This rate is relatively higher than the rates offered by bank fixed deposits currently.

About the company

HUDCO is a wholly government-owned entity, providing loans for housing and urban infrastructure projects in India.

It has been conferred the status of Miniratna (catego-

ry-I public sector enterprise) by the Centre. The company focusses on funding the housing needs of economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income group category, along with funding non-commercial urban infrastructure projects.

Since its inception, HUDCO has funded 19.34 million dwelling units, about 86% of which belong to the economically weaker sections.

The Centre supports HUDCO by way of allowing access to low-cost funds, extending guarantees, easing various norms and guiding its broad policies and contours.

HUDCO's gross non-performing loans stood at 4.5% in FY19. The company's net NPA stood at 0.5% in FY19. In July 2019, India Ratings and Research affirmed HUDCO's long-term issuer rating at 'IND AAA' with a stable outlook. AAA rated bonds offer a high degree of creditworthiness.

BLACKBOARD: EXPENSE RATIO

Taking care of expenditure

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

What is expense ratio?

Expense ratio, as the name suggests, is that part of a mutual fund scheme that takes care of expenses related to managing the fund. It is used to meet the administrative, management and other operating expenses of the scheme. Fund houses have to pay salaries to fund managers, commissions to distributors and other marketing costs. As per Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations, all the expenses incurred while managing a particular scheme have to be borne out of the scheme only.

How much is the expense ratio?

As part of its measures to ensure that fund houses do not charge exorbitant amount or percentage as expense ratio, the capital markets regulator has capped expense ratio limit.

Last year, the board of the regulator capped the maximum total expense ratio or TER at 2.25% for open-ended equity schemes, some of which were earlier charging 2.75%.

Though the cut looked marginal in terms of overall cap, the benefits are believed to be significant as the regulator has also laid down various slabs based on the assets of the scheme with the TER going down as the assets rise.

For instance, if the assets under management (AUM) of a particular scheme is in excess of ₹50,000 crore then the TER has been capped at 1.05%. Earlier, any

For a scheme whose total assets exceed ₹50,000 crore, the total expense ratio is capped at 1.05%

scheme with an AUM of more than ₹300 crore could charge 1.75%. So, for large schemes, the expense ratio was brought down by almost 70 basis points.

According to SEBI's own estimates, the reduction in TER would lead to investors saving around ₹1,300-1,500 crore in commissions.

Is the expense ratio standardised?

No. As a fund house has to put in more efforts and money to increase the overall penetration level of mutual funds to the far corners of the country, the regulator has allowed a higher TER for garnering flows from beyond the top cities of the country.

While lowering the cap for maximum TER, the SEBI allowed for an extra 30 basis points for retail flows from beyond the top 30 cities.

More importantly, it has been mandated that the additional expense will not be allowed for flows from corporates and institutions and will be limited only to retail flows.

Incidentally, all mutual fund houses, industry body Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), along with SEBI have been putting in a lot of effort to channelise more household savings from far-flung towns into the stock markets through the mutual funds' route.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"Bargain sale! Bargain sale!! Bargain sale!!!"

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (₹) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	EMI (₹) Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	Processing fee
State Bank of India	10.65-15.05	10,784-11,908	2,156-2,381	Upto 1% of loan amount
Citi Bank	10.99-13.24	10,868-11,438	2,173-2,287	Upto 3% of loan amount
HDFC Bank	11.25 - 21.50	10,933-13,667	2,186-2,733	Upto 2.5% of loan amount
Indian Bank	10.5-13.15	10,746-11,414	2,149-2,282	Upto 0.512% of loan amount
Bank of Baroda	11.4-16.4*	10,971-12,265	2,194-2,453	Up to Rs 10,000
Axis Bank	15.75 - 24	12,092-14,383	2,418-2,876	Upto 2% of loan amount
ICICI Bank	11.50 -19.25	10,996-13,039	2,199-2,607	Upto 2.25% of loan amount
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.35	10,709-11,725	2,141-2,345	Upto 0.5% of loan amount
Canara Bank	10.7-13.7	10,796-11,556	2,159-2,311	0.5% of loan amount
Punjab National Bank	11.1-14.85	10,896-11,855	2,179-2,371	Upto 1.8% of loan amount
UCO Bank	11.2-11.6	10,921-11,021	2,184-2,204	Upto 1% of loan amount
Bandhan Bank	15-15.9	11,894-12,132	2,378-2,426	1% of loan amount
South Indian Bank	11.35-14.45	10,958-11,751	2,191-2,350	2% of loan amount
IDBI Bank	12-14	11,122-11,634	2,224-2,326	1% of loan amount
Corporation Bank	12.65-13.65	11,287-11,543	2,257-2,308	1.5% of loan amount
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.5-16.99	10,746-12,423	2,149-2,484	Upto 2.5% of loan amount
Central Bank of India	10.25-11.75	10,685-11,059	2,137-2,211	Upto Rs 500
Federal Bank	11.99-18	11,119-12,696	2,223-2,539	Upto 3% of loan amount

*Strategic premium in addition to the interest rate may be levied, which depends upon the customer's risk profile.

Rates as on September 20

Source: Paisabazaar.com

NEW CAR LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Bank	Interest rate (%)	EMI (₹) Loan amount-5 lakh Tenure-5 years	Processing fee
MCLR Linked Loans			
Andhra Bank	9.1	10,403	₹1,000-25,000
South Indian Bank	9.45-10.7	10,488-10,796	1%
State Bank of India	8.9-12.25	10,354-11,185	NIL till 31.10.2019
Canara Bank	8.7-9.35	10,306-10,464	₹1,000-5,000
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.8-10.4	10,574-10,722	1%
Axis Bank	8.8 -11.05	10,330-10,883	₹3,500-5,500
HDFC Bank	9-10.25	10,379-10,685	₹3,000-10,000
Bank of Baroda	8.4-10.4*	10,234-10,722	₹500 till 31.12.2019
Union Bank of India	8.6-8.85	10,282-10,342	Upto ₹1,000
Indian Overseas Bank	9	10,379	₹500-10,000
Karnataka Bank	9.25-10.5	10,439-10,746	Upto 0.5%
Punjab National Bank	8.9-9.35	10,354-10,464	Upto ₹1,500
UCO Bank	8.6-8.85	10,282-10,342	1%
Bank of India	8.95-9.55	10,367-10,513	NIL till 31.12.2019
Federal Bank	9.25-9.5	10,439-10,500	₹1,500-2,500
Repo Rate Linked Loans			
Union Bank of India	8.6-8.75	10,282-10,318	Upto Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.65-9.1	10,294-10,403	Upto Rs 1,500
Bank of India	8.85-9.45	10,342-10,488	NIL till 31.12.2019

*Strategic premium in addition to the interest rate may be levied, depending upon customer's credit profile

Source: Paisabazaar.com

A brave new world

‘Shikari’ Shambhu is now a conservationist, Suppandi has a girlfriend, and Tantri is finally king. As Amar Chitra Katha celebrates Uncle Pai’s birth month, *Tinkle* comics which turns 40 next year, is busy updating its universe

SHONALI MUTHALALI

Kalia the crow hits the Big Four-Oh next year. He’s become more complex over the years, expanding his social circles as he moved from the little forest he was born in, to colourful Big Baan.

He is not the only character from the well loved *Tinkle* universe who is suddenly all grown up. Earlier this year Tantri the Mantri, the prime minister who was as incompetent as he was ambitious, has finally become king, after just four decades of devious plotting.

Suppandi, who made his debut in 1983 as a village simpleton inspired by a character called Chappandi, from a Tamil folk tale, is now much slicker. He has lost his shoulder towel and gained both a girlfriend as well as a Twitter account boasting more than 11,000 followers. As for Shikari Shambhu? He’s now a politically correct, if still rather cowardly, conservationist.

This month Amar Chitra Katha (ACK) celebrates the birthday of Anant Pai, fondly known as Uncle Pai, who started ACK in 1967 to encourage Indian children to learn about India’s epics, literature, folk lore and more. In 1980, he launched *Tinkle*, a magazine for children, with 35,000 copies that sold out. Next year, *Tinkle*, which now has a circulation of 3 lakh per issue, turns 40.

Over the past four decades, audiences have

changed. “The fact is, we can’t have the same characters we did in the 1980s,” says Rajani Thindiath, Editor-in-Chief of *Tinkle*. “The kid of the 1980s was watching Doordarshan,” she says. “Each child is a product of their time. And today’s children are much more aware of the world, but also more demanding.”

Given that this is also the age of outrage, a lot of the tropes that worked for the comics in the 1970s and ‘80s would be unacceptable now. Cautiously agreeing that writers need to tread more carefully, Rajani says “Because we are writing for children, it makes it easier. We will not show blood and gore, violence or murder. Sex is anyway out... I know that kids can see a lot of this on TV anyway, but I will



Old and new (Clockwise from top) Suppandi; Shambhu and its artist Savio Mascarenhas; WingStar and *Tinkle*’s Editor-in-Chief Rajani Thindiath ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



not show it to them in the magazine.” She adds, “We do push boundaries though. We push for gender equality. We show fathers cooking. We have women superheroes, as well as female villains.”

There is also an effort to push back against stereotypes. Shikari Shambhu’s wife, Shanti, for example, is more than just a crotchety spouse, now, with a strong, brave personality.

Shambhu also has a less controversial job these days. “He is a conservationist,” says Reena I Puri, Executive Editor, Amar Chitra Katha. “I also felt that putting animals in

the zoo was wrong, so now he releases them into a reserve.” She adds, “If he must use a gun, he’s only given a tranquiliser gun... We got a PETA award after that!”

Reena worked with Pai from 1991, when she joined as Associate Editor of *Tinkle*. She helped develop a slew of new characters, including spin-offs from the old favourites: Little Shambhu, Junior Tantri, and Little Suppandi. (So far, *Tinkle* has created about 140 characters for readers.)

“I was there till 2005, after which I moved to ACK,” says Reena, adding that Pai always insisted that 70% of the stories came from their readers. “The children would write



CHACHA TO THE RESCUE

Chacha Chaudhary, another beloved comic character, was first created by cartoonist Pran for the Hindi magazine *Lotpot*, sometime between 1969 and 1971.

to us with ideas, sometimes on little scraps of paper,” she says. “Once, during summer holidays, we got 10,000 in a month. We were inundated, but we still read and responded to each one.”

Rajani says a lot of their ideas still come from children. “They wanted superheroes, but I did not want another Superman. So we introduced a wonky superhero, with SuperWeirdos. Aisha wants to be a superhero, but her only power is to giggle...” When children asked for horror, *Tinkle* created Dental Diaries, starring a cowardly vampire who has lost his fangs. “We realise that every child struggles with being different, so we want to make the ‘odd’ special.”

Despite *Tinkle*’s new, nuanced characters, Suppandi still reigns supreme. Reena is thoughtful when asked why. “Mr Pai used to say most of these characters are not very bright. They make mistakes. When they make mistakes, the child reading allows himself to make mistakes. They realise there are no perfect superheroes out there. They need to rely on the one within, get up and walk on.”

(Can’t) Look into his eyes



Savio Mascarenhas will not remove Shikari Shambhu’s hat, no matter how many times you ask. Currently Group Director at Amar Chitra Katha, Savio has been with *Tinkle* comics since 1994, and has been drawing the popular Shikari Shambhu character for 20 years.

“Shambhu was created in 1983, and Vasant Halbe, the artist who first drew him, created this very quirky, funny character,” says Savio, adding that one of Vasant’s ideas, was to draw Shambhu’s helmet covering his eyes. “Children keep writing to me to ask if he ever takes off his helmet. They want to know how he can see. So I say he has strong instincts. Or he’s afraid of the animals,” Savio chuckles. However, given how Shambhu has started traipsing around the world on his adventures, it does become challenging. “It’s tough when he goes on vacation,” sighs Savio. When Shambhu went into the desert, Savio put him in a keffiyeh. “When he was underwater, I put on a diving helmet,” he says. “Once the writers were making fun of me, and said they will force his hat to fly off in the next story. I said go ahead. When the scene came, I drew his hat falling off. Then in the next panel, I drew his head covered with a leaf.”

Under Savio, Shambhu has packed on a couple of pounds. “I gave him a little rotundity in terms of his face and structure. After all, he loves *laddoos*. He lazes around a lot. And it works. Kids love him in that shape and structure.”



DOWN MEMORY LANE



Tulsi tales

Gossip and true stories all have their place where storytelling in concerned



R.V. SMITH

Before the ubiquitous TV invaded the homes of the rich and poor alike, people passed the long evenings before dinner by telling tales while sitting in the courtyard, or on the balcony or terrace. There was Rafael Baba who was never tired of relating the incident of when a porcupine ravaged the vegetable field of St. Stephen’s College where he served as a gardener. The predator was finally trapped and taken away by the sweepers who were fond of Sehi Gosht (as porcupine meat is called).

Ramzani, the ex-cook of the Baptist Mission School in Ludlow Castle Road (now

Raj Niwas Marg), liked talking about the time when he prepared Jal Farezi (a spicy mutton dish) for the principal, who was tired of eating the “bland” English dinner of Roast Meat, Fried Potatoes and Bread Pudding. After the ‘Sahib’ tasted his preparation, he began to sweat because of the abundance of chillies, but nevertheless acquired a liking for it and always had Jal Farezi on his dining table.

At Thakur Nahar Singh’s house on Probyn Road (now Deshbandhu Gupta Road) the stories were about the First War of Independence in 1857, when his grandfather defied the British during the attack on Flagstaff Tower on the Ridge. As for the family of Elias Sahib, the incident at the house of a lady doctor (Dr Ulrick) was the subject of much mirth. Once there was a riot in Pipal Mandi area near the Agra Fort and a detachment of ‘Gora Tommies’ (British

mercenaries, as they were deprecatingly called) was sent to quell it. Pleased with their efforts to save her dispensary, Dr Ulrick invited them for lunch and served Besani rotis (made of gram flour) and pumpkin sabzi. She left them to their meal and when she returned she was dumbfounded to find the rotis all lined up against the dining room wall while the sabzi had been eaten. The soldiers had taken the rotis for a kind of Indian dinning plates and so did not eat them.

Mrs Rawat of Wazirpura used to talk of the time when her husband was away on World War II duty and she was left alone with her three children. To keep them amused she would tell a bedtime story every day,



Gossiping heads Women in conversation; (below) the Tulsi ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

invoking the tulsi plant in her courtyard as a silent witness to yarns of rajas and princesses of Rajput states.

It was C.A. Kincaid, an ICS officer, who wrote his *Tales of the Tulsi Plant*. Later, after nearly a hundred years, Prof Saros Cowasjee has come out with his version of ‘new tales of the tulsi plant’: *The Oxford Anthology of Raj Stories*. The tale-tellers are mostly British Civil Servants: Philip Mason and Leonard Woolf (who married the writer Virginia), for instance. There are others like Rudyard Kipling, John Lang, Flora Annie Steel, Bithia Mary Croker, Alice Perrin, Maud Diver, Christine Weston, Edmund Candler, Otto Rothfield.

Lang was an Australian poet who made India his home before the ‘Mutiny’ and lies buried in Mussoorie. His tomb was discovered by Ruskin Bond in 1960. Lang was the one who went all the way to England to plead the case of the Rani of Jhansi before she revolted against the East India Company. A good lawyer, he however lost the case and felt greatly disheartened.

Saros carried his love for Raj tales from Agra to Canada, where he taught English as Professor Emertius at the University of Regina. Born in Bombay, Kipling entered the very soul of India and churned out tale after tale with great flourish and conviction. In spite of his love for imperialism he did like India in his own way for he owed his popularity to it.

The generation that lived during the Raj is fading out, along with faithful cooks, barbers, dhobis, bearers and khansamas. But the bitter-sweet memory of those times refuses to fade away thanks to Raj fiction and the aura it imparts to the land where the tulsi grows.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

Gentleman’s collection

D.N. Raghavendra Rao owns a treasure trove of cricket memorabilia: letters, photos and 1,300 articles autographed by legends like Don Bradman, Sunil Gavaskar and more



VIJAY LOKAPALLY

It is an enviable world for a cricket-crazy fan. A collection of 1,300 articles, all bearing signatures of the subjects. Twenty-five albums of 50 pages each, storing autographed photos of some of the greatest names the game has known. Letters from the likes of Don Bradman and Sunil Gavaskar, all arranged in chronological order. For D.N. Raghavendra Rao, a Bengaluru-based collector of cricket memorabilia, this has been a 69-year-old journey of love.

Rao was 11 when he wrote his first letter to a cricketer – CR Rangachari. His father, DR Narasinga Rao, a District Judge, told him to be “polite” when writing to the cricketers. His request for an autograph would be accompanied with a self-addressed stamped envelope. “I have never been disappointed,” says Rao, even though sometimes the responses came late. Recently, the West Indian great Brian Lara wrote back to him. “After six months,” Rao chuckles. His first West Indian “prey”, however, was the great Sir Frank Worrell.

What a “thrill” it was for the now 80-year-old when Bradman responded to his request promptly. His letter arrived in September 1982 and Rao considers it a “rare treasure.” Bradman’s reply triggered his love for seeking autographs



from cricketers all over the world. Gradually, he added Len Hutton, Denis Compton, Keith Miller, Neil Harvey, Richie Benaud to his list of “conquests.” Indian greats – Lala Amarnath, CK Nayudu, Vijay Hazare, Vijay Merchant, Vijay Manrekar, GR Viswanath – also embellish his collections.

Of all these, Rao remembers how difficult a feat reaching out to Harold Larwood was. The address he put was Harold Larwood, former England cricketer, residing in Radwick, suburb of Sydney.... And yet somehow, “I got a reply from him,” he says. Cricketers have been an integral part of his life. “I have passion for the game and respect for those who play it. I love them because they take the time and trouble to sign the articles and photos and post



Total recall Pictures of Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Shane Warne; Brian Lara from Rao’s (below) collection ■ K MURALI KUMAR



them.” A majority of the articles are from The Hindu and Sportstar.

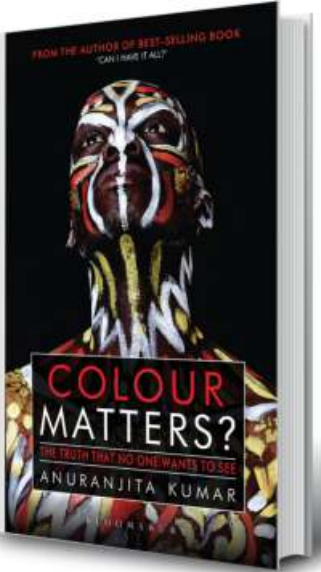
Having started this wonderful association with cricket in 1950, Rao has some fascinating tales to share. “I got the group picture of Bradman’s 1948 Invincibles from All Sport (now Getty Images) with just one request. I got the address from an autographed photo that Merv Hughes sent me as a bonus. It was so kind of them (Hughes and Getty).” And then he collected the autographs of some Invincible team members: Bill Brown, Arthur Morris, Neil Harvey, Sam Loxton and Keith Miller, by writing to them individually.

He also values the replies from Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble. Sadly, the current crop of cricketers is not high on his list. “I do seek their autographs but through friends. Where do they have time to respond to letters?”

His prize possession is a reply from Australian leg-spinner Bill O’Reilly, who wrote back, “Your sugar-coated pen should be put to use in diplomatic affairs of state.” He has been assisted in preserving these priceless assets by wife Vidyullata, son Amar and daughter Roopa. Needless to say, he is extremely “possessive” of his treasures and keeps them away from prying eyes. “In an almirah,” he signs off, laughing.

Wrapped in IDENTITIES

Anuranjita Kumar, author of *Colour Matters?*, talks about the unconscious biases we face in our everyday lives



RANJANI RAJENDRA

She was on a flight from Dubai to Mumbai and had a headache. She needed a glass of water and requested the steward to bring her one. He ignored her. A short while later, she requested him to bring her some water again. He ignored her again. Undeterred she once again called the steward, a white man, and requested that she be given some water. He ignored her once again. A short while later, a woman seated next to her requested a blanket. He brought it to her in the blink of an eye and a wide smile. The other woman was white.

Does the incident spark a sense of

Filled with stories from around the globe, spanning ethnicities and professional backgrounds, the book offers personal encounters

outrage? It did in Anuranjita Kumar, who was at the receiving end of this incident. The senior HR professional had been travelling on work. Not one to take it lying down, she escalated the matter to the cabin manager.

"I was on a full fare ticket; a glass of water is not too much to ask. We've all faced biases of some sort... at the workplace, while travelling overseas, while shopping. What would worry me was why we didn't do anything about it. We tend to let things slide to avoid confrontation," she says during an interview while launching her book *Colour Matters?: The Truth That No One Wants to See*.

"By escalating the issue, I made sure the steward wouldn't do it again." Her book deals with the various biases people face on an everyday basis. It explores cross cultural dynamics, highlights the difficulties of being a minority in different geographies, and offers perspectives of different ethnicities.

Inspired by the world
Filled with stories from around the globe, spanning ethnicities and professional backgrounds, the book offers personal encounters. "It deals with stories that I came across during my research for the book – white and black dilemma, brown and black, brown and white, Chinese, Japanese and all kinds of biases people face across the world by virtue of being a minority," says the author, who is also the MD and head, HR at Royal Bank of Scotland.

"The stories essentially point toward the fact that people who have a privilege don't see that privilege... The book touches upon all kinds of codes: how black parents who tried to adopt a white child were treated; a white person's experience in India; an Indian's experience in China and so much more," she says. *Colour Matters?*, she says, is an attempt to bring these issues to the fore and talk about it constructively.

"It is basically a minority's perspective on colour and ethnicity whilst they're dealing with a situation where the majority may be brown, white or black," says Anuranjita, adding that there was quite a bit of push back when she first wanted to write this book.

"I had friends advising me against it. Some of the leading publishers in the country asked me if bias on the basis of colour was actually an issue in today's time. Luckily, my organisation was supportive and asked me to go ahead with the book."

While the topic had been on Anuranjita's mind for a while, she says she started working on it last September. She undertook public research and had several people writing in to her with their experiences. "It was then about filtering the repetitive stories and clustering them. I used the word Colour as an acronym (C= connect, O= openness, L= love, O= objectivity, U= unbiasedness, R= resilience) and bunched up stories under these themes so there were takeaways for the readers."

Anuranjita's books are an offshoot of her personal experiences. "My first book *Can I Have It All?* is about being a mother and the dilemmas and choices a woman faces. Writing for me is about leaving a legacy for my children... about leaving the world better than the one we inherited," she says.

SONG OF OPPRESSION
Poet Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric* is a book-length poem that looks at racism and micro-aggressions in 21st-Century USA.

Q&A

I am a 17-year-old boy. As a child, the paediatrician said I would be a 6-footer, but I am only 5'10". Is there anything I can eat to change this?



■ Unlike weight, there's no set formula to predict your adult height. Near the end of puberty, somewhere between ages 14 and 19, hormonal changes in boys cause the growth plates to harden or close and the lengthening of bones to stop. However, the final spurt can be seen even later in your teen years. To support proper growth, you must focus on eating wholesome meals spread throughout the day, comprising: wholegrains: 5-6 servings; lentils, beans: 3-4 cups; eggs: 1-2; milk and yoghurt: 2-3 cups; vegetables: 5 and more servings; fruits: 2 and more servings; lean meat or paneer: an approximately 100g serving.

My daughter is going away to college this year, and I feel her nutrition will be impacted in hostel. What long-lasting snacks can I pack?

■ Hectic student life, especially when staying away from home, makes healthy eating a challenge. Here are some snacks that can come to the rescue:
Pinni: Our bespoke energy ball using a mix of whole wheat, almonds, roasted sesame, fennel, ghee and jaggery is an ultimate bone and muscle strengthener. It aids in memory and concentration and is a suitable sugar fix.
Roasted chana and peanut mix: It's a perfect blend for snacking in between meals, that is energising and gives a quick serving of healthy protein, fat, fibre, iron, calcium, magnesium, biotin, folate and vitamin E, all in one.
Sattu: A *desi* meal replacer to combat skipping meals on days there's hardly time to eat in between classes. A quick mix in water or yoghurt guarantees satiety, repair and restful sleep at night.

Lovneet Batra is a nutritionist, a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, USA; lecturer at IHM Pusa; a consultant to the Sports Authority of India, having counselled the Indian boxing, gymnastics, cycling, archery teams; and a consultant at Fortis La Femme Hospital, Delhi

Nothing in this column is intended to be, and is not, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please seek independent advice from a licensed practitioner if you have any questions regarding a medical condition. Email us with your questions at mp_health@thehindu.co.in

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



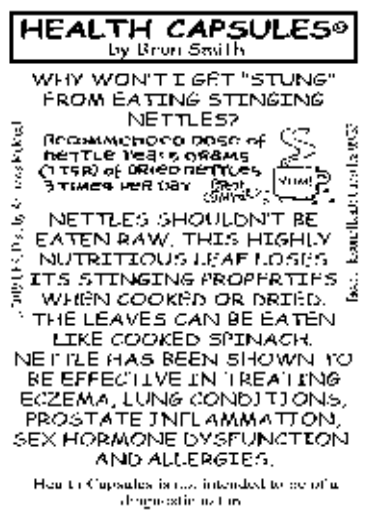
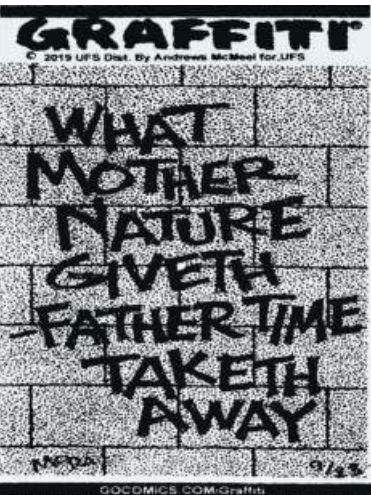
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



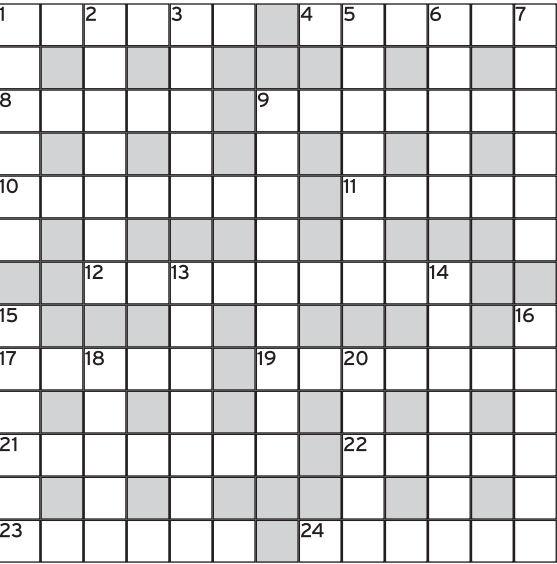
PEANUTS



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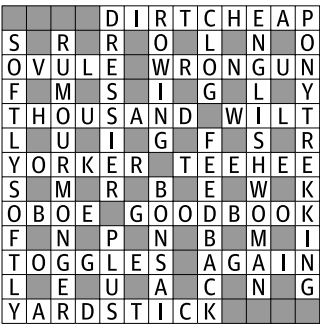


THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13181



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- Across
1 Permit to do something (6)
4 Potential oaks? (6)
8 Put down on paper (5)
9 Dominance (7)
10 Vehicle seen on the roads in wintery conditions (7)
11 Synthetic silk-like fabric (5)
12 Bogus trap (anag)
- somewhere good to eat and drink? (9)
17 Ghostly (5)
19 Convey (7)
21 Out of order – erratic (7)
22 Cause of computer failure? (5)
23 One suffering for their beliefs (6)
24 Very dull (6)
■ Down
1 Hauling something



Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 24, 2019.
Solution No. 13180

de Kock takes charge as South Africa levels series

Beuran Hendricks' incisive bowling and the home team's insipid display hand the visitors a resounding nine-wicket victory

SA IN INDIA
SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU
An insipid batting display saw India sink to a resounding nine-wicket defeat in the third and final T20 international here on Sunday. Some questionable shot-making saw Virat Kohli's men scramble together a modest 134 in 20 overs after winning the toss at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

On the rampage
Quinton de Kock then went on the rampage, smashing an unbeaten 79, as South Africa raced home with 19 balls to spare to level the series.
De Kock's 52-ball effort contained five sixes, all executed in his trademark style over the leg-side boundary. India's bowlers failed to make an early breakthrough as de Kock and Reeza Hendricks put on 76 for the opening wicket.
Kohli will be frustrated by a number of things. Primary among them will be his use of the review. India wasted its only review on a frivolous appeal against Hendricks in the sixth over, when Deepak Chahar's delivery was sliding way down leg.
In the next over, de Kock was trapped in front by Washington Sundar for 28. Umpire Nitin Menon ruled him not out. A little later, re-plays showed the ball would have crashed into the stumps. de Kock carried on unflustered as South Africa wrapped things up in style.
India won the toss and opt-



Calling the shots: Quinton de Kock was in a punishing mood, hitting six fours and five sixes in his unbeaten 79. • K. MURALI KUMAR

ed to bat first, Kohli believing his team needed practice in defending totals ahead of the T20 World Cup. But what followed was a poor, chaotic effort that frittered away a bright start. From 62 for one in seven overs, India slumped to 99 for six in 15, and never really recovered.
The home team was unchanged from the second T20 while South Africa brought in the left-arm pacer Beuran Hendricks. The move paid off at once.
In his first over, Hendricks angled a delivery across Rohit Sharma (9) that the batsman pushed at half-heartedly. The resulting edge flew to

first slip. Hendricks would eventually finish with excellent figures of two for 14 from his four overs.
Early momentum
India's early momentum was supplied by Shikhar Dhawan, who picked up from where he had left off in Mohali. He drove Andile Phehlukwayo down the ground, and welcomed Tabraiz Shamsi with a pair of tall sixes. But Dhawan fell to Shamsi for 36, reaching for the ball and lofting it high. Temba Bavuma settled under the catch at extra-cover.
That was the start of India's troubles. Kohli went for 9, caught within an inch of

the deep mid-wicket boundary by Phehlukwayo. Rishabh Pant made a start, getting to 19, before he holed out to long-off against the left-arm spin of Bjorn Fortuin.
Shreyas Iyer unwisely charged down the pitch two balls later. Fortuin dragged it down the leg-side, and Shreyas was comfortably stumped.
The stadium crackedled with anticipation when Hardik Pandya arrived at the crease. But he failed to produce the fireworks the crowd craved. Ravindra Jadeja managed just the solitary six as South Africa's death-overs bowling proved watertight.

STAT SPHERE

INDIA INNINGS

First 7 overs: 62/1 (RR 8.85, 6x4, 2x6)

Next 13 overs: 72/8 (RR 5.53, 4x4, 2x6)

INDIA AT HOME IN T20IS

Batting first: M 22; W 10; L 12

Batting second: M 16; W 12; L 4

de Kock becomes the third batsman to notch-up half-centuries in the first two T20I innings as captain. Earlier, Paul Stirling of Ireland and Navneet Singh of Canada had achieved the feat

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Shikhar Dhawan c Bavuma b Shamsi 36 (25b, 4x4, 2x6), Rohit Sharma c R. Hendricks b B. Hendricks 9 (8b, 2x4), Virat Kohli c Phehlukwayo b Rabada 9 (15b), Rishabh Pant c Phehlukwayo b Fortuin 19 (20b, 1x4, 1x6), Shreyas Iyer st de Kock b Fortuin 5 (8b), Hardik Pandya c Miller b Rabada 14 (18b, 1x4), Krunal Pandya c de Kock b B. Hendricks 4 (7b), Ravindra Jadeja c&b Rabada 19 (17b, 1x4, 1x6), Washington Sundar run out 4 (1b, 1x4), Deepak Chahar (not out) 0 (0b), Navdeep Saini (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-12): 15; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 134.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Rohit, 2.2 overs), 2-63 (Dhawan, 7.2), 3-68 (Kohli, 8.3), 4-90 (Pant, 12.4), 5-92 (Shreyas, 12.5), 6-98 (Krunal, 14.3), 7-127 (Jadeja, 19.1), 8-133 (Washington, 19.4), 9-133 (Hardik, 19.5).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Fortuin 3-0-19-2, Rabada 4-0-39-3, B. Hendricks 4-0-14-2, Phehlukwayo 4-0-28-0, Shamsi 4-0-23-1, Pretorius 1-0-8-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Reeza Hendricks c Kohli b Hardik 28 (26b, 4x4), Quinton de Kock (not out) 79 (52b, 6x4, 5x6), Temba Bavuma (not out) 27 (23b, 2x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-2, w-4): 6; Total (for one wkt. in 16.5 overs): 140.

FALL OF WICKET

1-76 (R. Hendricks, 10.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Washington 4-0-27-0, D. Chahar 3-0-15-0, Saini 2-0-25-0, Krunal 3.5-0-40-0, Hardik 2-0-23-1, Jadeja 2-0-8-0.

Toss: India. Man-of-the-Match: B. Hendricks. Man-of-the-Series: de Kock.

South Africa won by nine wickets with 19 balls remaining to draw the series 1-1.

Not great decision-making cost us, says Kohli

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU
India skipper Virat Kohli stated that his team should have taken a more cautious batting approach on the slow M. Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch, in the third and final T20 against South Africa.
“We wanted to go for a big score. In the past, while batting first in T20Is, we have been 20-30 runs short on certain occasions, and that has cost us the game. But quickly into our innings today, we realised that the pitch would not allow us to go for a big score.
“After the start we got, we could have reassessed and set our target to 170, instead of looking for 200. But take nothing away from South Africa – they bowled very well, hit the right areas, and understood the pitch. A combination of good bowling and not great decision-making from us cost us the game,” Kohli said.



Virat Kohli. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Pant or Shreyas?
There was a moment of confusion during the Indian innings, when both Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer walked into the ground at the fall of the second wicket. It was Pant who eventually batted at two-drop.
“There was some miscommunication there. That is what I understood afterwards. The batting coach had a word with both of them, and there was a misunderstanding as to who had to go in at what stage. It was funny afterwards, as both wanted to walk in. It would have been funny had

both batsmen reached the pitch – three batsmen on the field,” Kohli said.
South Africa captain Quinton de Kock praised his bowlers Tabraiz Shamsi and Bjorn Fortuin.

Good display
“Shamsi is always pretty consistent. But I’m more impressed with Fortuin. He is an up-and-coming young spinner – for him to come into conditions where the Indian team is very good at playing spin and bowl the way he did was great. He was very clever as he mixed up his pace, and the areas where he bowled,” de Kock said. Batsman Rassie van der Dussen added that he was surprised that India chose to bat first.

Aware wins bronze

India finishes with five medals



Keeping it tight: Rahul Aware, right, was in complete control of the bout against 2017 Pan-America champion Tyler Lee Graff of the USA. • AP

WORLD WRESTLING
ANI
NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)
Rahul Aware bagged a bronze to ensure India's best-ever medal haul at the World wrestling championships here on Sunday after Deepak Punia finished with a silver, having pulled out of the final due to injury.
Aware outclassed Tyler Lee Graff, the 2017 Pan-America champion, 11-4 in the 61kg bronze play-off to take India's tally to five medals – one silver and four bronze.
Aware was in complete control of the bout and jumped in joy at the end, having won the biggest me-

dal of his career.
Graff surprised Aware with a double leg attack the moment the bout started and earned two points with a takedown.
However, he became alert and twice wriggled out of Graff's single leg attacks. He also scored consecutive takedown points to lead 4-2 at the break.
In the second period too, Graff got hold of Aware's right leg but the Indian got himself out of trouble in an impressive manner.
He then turned things in his favour with quick moves – the takedowns and expose – and took a commanding 10-2 lead.
Eventually he won 11-4.

Silver is the result of my hard work: Deepak Punia

Withdraws from the 86kg freestyle final due to injury

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA
Even after being forced to withdraw from the men's 86kg freestyle gold medal bout in the World wrestling championships on Sunday due to an ankle injury, Deepak Punia took heart from his excellent performance in Nur-Sultan to focus on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
Deepak, a former World cadet champion, had claimed the World junior title in August last and was eyeing to corner the rare glory of being an elite World champion as well. However, the injury in his left leg and a swollen eye spoilt his plan.
He ended up being the fourth Indian to secure a silver after Bishambhar Singh (1967), Amit Kumar (2013) and Bajrang Punia (2018).



Deepak Punia. • PTI

Painful
“My leg is swollen up and it is hurting. The eye is swollen too. I picked up both injuries during the first round (against Kazakh opponent Adilet Davlumbayev). That's why I chose not to fight in the final,” Deepak told *The Hindu* from Nur-Sultan on Sunday.
Deepak had defied an in-

jured shoulder and a cut above his eye to bag the World junior title, but the injury in Nur-Sultan was too painful to fight Iranian Hasan Yazdaniachara in the final.
“Throughout the night Deepak was running fever because of the pain. The injury had become more painful in the morning. I advised him not to take risk as it could have aggravated the injury and adversely impacted his Olympic participation,” said Virender Kumar, Deepak's coach at the Chha-

trasal Stadium in Delhi.
Deepak, who also booked an Olympic quota place, sounded positive. “My morale was high after the World junior championships and my preparation was good. The silver here is the result of my hard work. This will inspire me to do well in the Olympics.”
The youngster agreed that luck was on his side. “I was lucky to have been placed in the upper half of the draw. The lower half was tougher (with the presence of wrestlers from traditional countries like Iran, Hungary, Korea, Russia, Uzbekistan, Georgia, China, Japan and USA). But I found tough competition in every bout and had to carry on despite the pain.”
Pat from the coach
Virender patted his student on the back. “Deepak is an obedient student, who learns from his mistakes quickly. He and Ravi Dahiya are partners and their life revolves around wrestling without any distractions. Happy to see their success and hope they can repeat it in the Olympics,” said Virender.

Team Europe's reign continues

Team World loses after being one win away from maiden win



The winning cast: Team Europe completed a hat-trick of triumphs with a fantastic come-from-behind victory on Sunday. • GETTY IMAGES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA
Alexander Zverev sealed Europe a dramatic Laver Cup hat-trick over Team World on Sunday, as the German beat Milos Raonic in the deciding singles match.
The holders trailed 11-7 midway through the final day but Zverev, after Roger Federer had edged past John Isner 6-4, 7-6(3), downed Raonic 6-4, 3-6, 10-4 to deny John McEnroe's visitors their maiden triumph in the third edition of the event.
After Rafael Nadal withdrew from Sunday's play with a hand injury, Isner and

Jack Sock beat Federer and Stefanos Tsitsipas in the opening doubles encounter, before Taylor Fritz saw off Dominic Thiem to leave Team World one win from the trophy.
World No. 6 Zverev took the first set courtesy of a break in game seven, with big-serving Canadian Raonic hitting back to force a super tie-break, saving four break points to serve out the second set.
But the 22-year-old Zverev, selected by Borg ahead of Tsitsipas and Fabio Fognini for the first-ever decider, raced to victory as Raonic's

serve deserted him.
Earlier Federer won a tense tie-break over World No. 20 Isner to take three points in the penultimate match, smashing an ace on the final point to raise the roof in Geneva.
The results: Europe bt World 13-11 [Alexander Zverev bt Milos Raonic 6-4, 3-6, 10-4; Roger Federer bt John Isner 6-4, 7-6(3); Dominic Thiem lost to Taylor Fritz 7-5, 6-7(3), 10-8; Federer & Stefanos Tsitsipas lost to John Isner & Jack Sock 5-7, 6-4, 10-8; **Saturday:** Rafael Nadal bt Raonic 6-3, 7-6(1); Nadal & Tsitsipas lost to Nick Kyrgios & Jack Sock 6-4, 3-6, 10-6].

U Mumba overcomes Fortunegiants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR
U Mumba produced an all-round show to beat Gujarat Fortunegiants 31-25 in a VI-VO Pro Kabaddi League match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.
Abhishek Singh secured a Super 10 (11 raid points) for U Mumba.
The team was equally miserly in its defence, with Surinder Singh and Harendra Kumar picking up vital points.
The victory meant the Mumbai side jumped to the fourth place on the points table to consolidate its chances of making the play-off stage.

Liverpool beats a gritty Chelsea to maintain perfect start

Aubameyang comes to Arsenal's rescue; Manchester United trips at West Ham; Granada ambushes Barcelona

EURO LEAGUES
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID
Trent Alexander-Arnold's thunderous strike inspired Liverpool's 2-1 win against Chelsea as the Premier League leader moved five points clear at the top on Sunday.
Jurgen Klopp's side extended its perfect start to the title race as it became the first club to win its opening six games in consecutive top-flight seasons.
Roberto Firmino increased Liverpool's advantage before the interval and N'Golo Kante's fine goal was not enough to give Chelsea tangible reward for a vibrant second half.
Ten-man Arsenal twice

came from a goal down to claim a much-needed 3-2 win over Aston Villa in dramatic fashion thanks to Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's free-kick six minutes from time at the Emirates.
Earlier West Ham inflicted more away-day pain on a poor Manchester United side on Sunday, lifting itself to fourth in the league with a comfortable 2-0 win at the London Stadium.
Earlier on Saturday, Barcelona threw on its stars of the present and the future but neither Lionel Messi nor Ansu Fati could save it from a dismal 2-0 defeat away at Granada.
But while both came on at half-time with Barca trailing to Ramon Azeez's opener, it was Granada that scored



Early shocker: A Junior Firpo error for Barcelona ends with the simplest of headers for Granada's Ramon Azeez. • AP

again, Alvaro Vadiello converting a penalty after Arturo Vidal was found guilty of a

handball.
Barcelona has now won only two of its opening five

league games and none away from Camp Nou.
With seven points on the

board, this is its worst start to a season since 1994.
Instead, Granada goes top of the table after capitalising on Atletico Madrid's goalless draw at home to Celta Vigo a few hours before. Barcelona is sixth.
The results: Premier League: Crystal Palace 1 (Dendoncker-og 46) drew with Wolves 1 (Jota 90+5); West Ham 2 (Yarmolenko 44, Cresswell 84) bt Man Utd 0; Arsenal 3 (Pepe 59-pen, Chambers 81, Aubameyang 84) bt Aston Villa 2 (McGinn 70, Wesley 61); Chelsea 1 (Kante 71) lost to Liverpool 2 (Alexander-Arnold 14, Firmino 30).
Bundesliga: Borussia Monchengladbach 2 (Thuram 74, 88) bt Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Adams 7); Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Silva 44, Delaney 88-og) drew with Borussia Dortmund 2 (Witsel 11, Sancho 66).

La Liga: Getafe 4 (Baba 7-og, Molina 33-pen, Nyom 63, Angel 84) bt Mallorca 2 (Budimir 70, 77); Espanyol 1 (Zaldua 71-og) lost to Real Sociedad 3 (William Jose 18, 34, Isak 75); Valencia 1 (Parejo 21-pen) drew with Leganes 1 (Rodriguez 35).
Serie A: Sassuolo 3 (Caputo 26, 45+2, Duncan 47) bt SPAL 0; Sampdoria 1 (Gabbadini 56) bt Torino 0; Lecce 1 (Mancosu 61-pen) lost to Napoli 4 (Llorente 28, 82, Insigne 40-pen, Ruiz 52); Bologna 1 (Sansone 54-pen) lost to Roma 2 (Kolarov 48, Dzeko 90+4); Atalanta 2 (Ilicic 84, Castagne 90+5) drew with Fiorentina 2 (Chiesa 24, Ribery 65).
Saturday: La Liga: Granada 2 (Azeez 2, Alvaro Vadiello 66-pen) bt Barcelona 0.
Serie A: AC Milan 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (Brozovic 49, Lukaku 78).

Humpy clinches first Grand Prix in style

Her finest performance after being away for over 15 months

WOMEN'S CHESS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Koneru Humpy is back. She is back to playing the kind of solid, ruthless, uncompromising chess that made her one of the strongest women in the history of the game. On Sunday, at the Russian village of Skolkovo, she won the first leg of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix series after finishing her campaign unbeaten. All she needed was a draw in the final round from the reigning World champion and top seed Ju Wenjun of China. She got that without too much trouble, in 35 moves.

Morale booster
This is Humpy's finest performance since she returned to the chessboard last year, after being away for over 15 months following childbirth. It should be a morale booster



Unchallenged: Koneru Humpy played some solid chess to remain unbeaten. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for the 32-year-old from Vijayawada. Victory in a major tournament was what she required at this stage of the career. As a girl who had been earmarked for greatness from a very young age, and who was

far ahead of her contemporaries, she was tipped to win the World championship years ago. But she had to settle for the runner-up's trophy in the 2011, though she was seeded higher than her opponent

Hou Yifan. While the Chinese woman grew in strength and stature since, Humpy saw her rating drop quite a bit. She is still the third strongest female player of all time, behind Judit Polgar and Hou.

She is ranked fourth in the world at the moment. At Skolkovo, she was seeded third. It was her superlative display in the second half of the tournament that took her to the top: she scored four wins on the trot, from rounds seven to ten.

Five wins
She recorded five wins in all, and six draws, to finish with eight points from 11 rounds. The other Indian in the tournament, Dronavalli Harika, ended with five points, following her draw in the final round with Russia's Kateryna Lagno. This was the first of the four Grand Prix tournaments. The top two finishers in the series will qualify for the 2021 Candidates match, the winner of which will challenge the World champion. Humpy has every reason to be hopeful of being that challenger.

My biggest win, says Humpy

'Gives me a lot of happiness and positive energy'

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

GM Koneru Humpy recorded her biggest win on her comeback trail, clinching the FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess title in Skolkovo (Russia) with eight points from 11 rounds (five wins and six draws) on Sunday. More importantly, she was the only unbeaten player in the championship.

Re-setting goals
"This win gives me a lot of happiness and positive energy in what I believe is my 'second innings'. And, also makes me re-set my goals, which now includes becoming world champion," she said. "This was the most difficult of the Grand Prix titles I have won as the preparations had to be intense and also different because of family commitments. This is my seventh Grand Prix title since the first in 2013," the 32-year-old champion told

Winning the ninth round game against Valentina Gunina of Russia was the turning point in this event. It was a wild game and a double-edged one. I am glad I pulled it off

The Hindu from Russia. "All the top players – including the reigning World champion, former champions and the Challenger – were in the fray. It is a big win for sure and one which I badly needed at this stage," she said. "Definitely, winning the ninth round game against Valentina Gunina of Russia was the turning point in this event. It was a wild game and a double-edged one and I am glad I pulled it off," she said.

Half point lead
"And, with World champion Ju Wenjun of China losing

that round, I took a half-a-point lead and maintained it till the end," Humpy said. "The opponent played safe and I didn't waste the advantage of playing white," Humpy said about the final round where she needed just a draw to clinch the honours. Humpy also revealed that she would pick up 17 Elo points and also move to World No. 3 from 4 in the rankings.

Double challenge
Humpy, meanwhile, reminds that she held the World No. 2 spot for the longest tenure (more than a decade) before her marriage in 2014 and the subsequent break saw her lose that spot. "This tournament was a double challenge for me as I had to leave my two-year-old daughter Ahana for the first time and also travel alone in my career for the first time," she said.

Union Sports Ministry directive to AICF

Seeks action on Barua's complaint against Lahiri

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

The Union Sports Ministry has directed the All India Chess Federation (AICF) to take necessary action on the complaint filed by Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua against Bengal Chess Association (BCA) secretary Atanu Lahiri and file an action-taken report. This directive, issued on September 18, takes cognizance of Barua's detailed complaint made on September 6 to Sports Minister Kiren Rijji. Barua had alleged numerous acts of misuse of power and misappropriation of State Government funds by Lahiri, who is also a joint se-

cretary in the AICF. On August 30, AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan issued a press statement condemning Lahiri's attitude and announcing that the AICF would initiate a "thorough enquiry of BCA and its secretary on the charges levelled by Barua." The same day, an emergency meeting of the BCA was unanimous in questioning Lahiri's conduct that was "unbecoming of a secretary." A two-member disciplinary committee was formed and Lahiri was given 21 days to respond to a show-cause notice. The deadline ends on Monday and so far Lahiri has

not responded to the notice. Further, he has sought judicial recourse and the case is likely to come up for hearing on Tuesday. On September 9, AICF president P.R. Venkatarama Raja had written to all office-bearers and State associations that the press release (signed by Bharat Singh Chauhan) on August 30 "went beyond the brief given by me and has created unnecessary emotions giving the impression that AICF has made up its mind." Raja nominated a three-member committee comprising Messrs A. Narasimha Reddy (chairman), D.V. Sundar (AICF vice-presidents

and Kishor Bandekar (AICF treasurer) to oversee BCA's long-overdue elections and enquire into Barua's complaints. Strikingly, Chauhan was kept out of the committee. As is the norm in most National Sports Federations, the secretary remains a de-facto member of all committees. On September 16, Reddy issued a letter, addressed to Lahiri, directing the BCA to hold elections in early October. It was silent on the enquiry. The BCA officials were baffled how the AICF committee could address a letter to Lahiri, who was facing serious charges and was yet to get a 'clean chit'.

Gill and another driver booked

FIR filed by the elder son of the deceased

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BARMER

Arjuna awardee Gaurav Gill and another driver were booked on Sunday in connection with an accident during a National Rally Championship race here in which a couple and their young son were killed, police said. A police official said companies involved in the event – Maxperience, Mahindra, JK Tyres, MRF Tyres and the Federation of Motor Sports Club of India – have also been named in the FIR. Additional Superintendent of Police Khinvi Singh said the FIR was lodged at Samdari police station at 2



Gaurav Gill.

a.m. on Sunday on a complaint by Rahul, the elder son of the deceased. Rahul claimed that his parents were standing along the road with the motorcycle, talking to his younger

brother, when Gill's car hit them and two other cars coming from behind also crushed them. Gill and driver M. Sharif were booked under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), the ASP said, adding that their names were written on the vehicle that hit the motorcycle of the deceased. Meanwhile, the bodies of Narendra Kumar, his wife Pushpa Devi and son Jiten-dev were still lying at the spot as villagers and family members demanded compensation, government job to a kin and the arrest of the accused.

It's Railways vs Manipur

SPORTS BUREAU
PASIGHAT

Railways will be up against Manipur in the final of the senior women's National football championship on Tuesday. Facing Odisha in the first semifinal at the CHF ground, Railways won 3-1 with Yumnam Kamala Devi striking twice and Mamta once. Jasoda Munda scored a consolation goal for Odisha. In the second semifinal, Manipur enjoyed a mighty 5-0 win over Tamil Nadu. Heigrujam Daya Devi scored a hat-trick, while Ngangom Bala Devi and Irom Prameshwori Devi scored one each.

Bhutia to shut down United Sikkim FC

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former I-League club United Sikkim FC on Sunday decided to shut shop to "focus on grassroots football" and avoid "conflict of interest" issues arising out of its founder Bhaichung Bhutia's association with the State governing body of the game. Bhutia in a statement said that his club, founded in 2004, will close down after 15 years of existence during which it made it to the country top-tier I-League in 2012-13 after winning the second division league.



Bhaichung Bhutia. *PTI

"This has been a very difficult decision for us to take. It is with great pain that we are announcing that United Sikkim Football Club will cease to exist from today," the club said.

India qualifies for AFC U-16 Championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TASHKENT

India played out a 1-1 draw against host Uzbekistan here on Sunday to finish on top of Group B and qualify for the AFC U-16 Championship to be held in Bahrain next year. India, coached by Bibiano Fernandes, finished on seven points from three matches – the same as Uzbekistan but qualified as group winners by virtue of better goal difference (+10) in comparison to the home team's +3. India had earlier beaten Turkmenistan and Bahrain by identical 5-0 margins.

Needing just a draw to top the group, India took the lead in the 68th minute when Sridarth tapped the ball home off a rebound. But even though the hosts levelled the scores in the 81st minute, the Indians managed to hold on to a draw and achieve their mission. This is India's third consecutive entry into the AFC U-16 Championships and ninth overall. "I am extremely proud of my boys," head coach Fernandes said moments after India's qualification. "There has been a lot of hard work put in."

I believe I can become World champion: Panghal

Reigning Asian title holder has now set his sights on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

BOXING

V.S. ARAVIND
CHENNAI

It was a historic day for Indian boxing as Amit Panghal entered the record books by becoming the first men's pugilist to bag a silver medal at the World Championships, held at Ekaterinburg (Russia) on Saturday. The journey has been far from easy. From Rohdak to Russia, boxing against odds, the pint-sized boxer has come a long way. "It was a surreal moment when I entered the ring. I knew it was going to be tough, but I gave it all I had. Gold is what I dreamt of, but I am happy with the silver," Panghal told *Sportstar* from Russia. Though his signature salute after winning a bout has become a big hit, it's the kiss on the India jersey before entering the ring that Panghal prides himself on. "India, Bharat" he pauses as a flood of emotions choke him. "It's a dream to wear this (India) jersey. To represent my nation is an honour



All about confidence: Amit Panghal says he knows his game and needs to evolve further. *PTI

and I would like to thank my brother Ajay who encouraged me to take up the sport. I believe one day I can become the World Champion," he said. Traditionally, tall boxers enjoy an advantage as they have greater reach when throwing punches and can also defend effectively. The final proved that as Panghal went down to Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in an intense 52kg bout. Against the 5'7" ft tall Uzbek, the 5'2" Panghal failed to land his punches accu-

rately and when counter-attacked opened up his defence jacket. **Height factor** "I can't help with my height but I am trying to work how to tame the taller boxers. It was not the first time I was facing the taller guys. "I discussed it with my coaches and there was a Plan B. But, unfortunately, I couldn't pull it off today," said Panghal, who had beaten Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov (5'6") in the semifinal. Nimble feet, speed, duck-

ing and swaying and, most importantly, the sideways movement to disable the opponent's reach, make Panghal a tough opponent. "That's my game and I need to evolve further. Inside the ring, I am myself and the trick is to maintain my composure when the opponent is attacking. I know I have a good defence and I can understand what the opponent is thinking. I like to keep moving around the ring," he said. The reigning Asian champion has now set his sights on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. "Bagging a silver at the Worlds is an achievement but to win an Olympic medal is a dream for every athlete. The training has to be right and, more importantly, the process. It's important to train in a specific manner and it involves a lot of dedication, determination and effort. Technique-wise nothing is going to change drastically, but I need to develop in certain areas. I will definitely come out a better boxer," said Panghal.

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TV PICKS

Rugby World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Osaka back to winning ways at home
TOKYO
Japan's Naomi Osaka ended an eight-month title drought by winning the Pan Pacific Open in her home city on Sunday, her first trophy since her second consecutive Grand Slam triumph at the Australian Open in January. The former World No. 1 overwhelmed Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 6-3 to make it third time lucky in finals at the tournament after finishing runner-up in 2016 and 2018. She is the first Japanese to win the Pan Pacific title since Kimiko Date in 1995. AFP

Vikram falls in last hurdle
LONDON (CANADA)
India's Vikram Malhotra, the top seed, went down in a nerve-wracking final against the second seed Auguste Dussourd of France 6-11, 11-5, 11-4, 5-11, 11-9 in the Nash Cup 2019 PSA challenger event here late on Saturday.

Rajiv Sethu snaps up a point
SEPANG (MALAYSIA)
IDEMITSU Honda Racing India's Rajiv Sethu once again snapped up a point for his team with a top-15 finish on Sunday's final race at the Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC). The 18-year-old Senthil Kumar clocked his personal best lap record of 2:28.241. Astra Honda Racing team's Awhin Sanjaya stopped the clock at 19:43:339. PTI



Muchova claims first title in Seoul
SEOUL
Czech Republic's Karolina Muchova thrashed fourth seed Magda Linette 6-1, 6-1 in the Korea Open final here on Sunday to claim her maiden WTA title. World No. 45 Muchova, who is enjoying the best season of her career having also reached the final in Prague, won 90% of points on her first serve and did not face a break-point en route to the victory. REUTERS

RACING

Mozambique primed to continue winning run

HYDERABAD: Mozambique, who is rousing form, may extend her winning streak in the Totaram's Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Monday (Sept. 23).

1. MALVADO PLATE (DIV. I), (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only (placed 2nd or 3rd not eligible), (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-25 p.m.: 1. Bedazzled (8) Kuldeep Singh 56, 2. Cerberus (9) Kiran Naidu 56, 3. Gold Label (3) Nakhat Singh 56, 4. Tough And Go (6) G. Nareesh 56, 5. Best In Show (7) Gopal Singh 54.5, 6. Coconut Coast (4) Neeraj 54.5, 7. Royal Girl (5) I. Chisty 54.5, 8. Scared Lamp (1) Aneel 54.5 and 9. Top In Turf (2) Akshay Kumar 54.5.

1. BEST IN SHOW, 2. BEDAZZLED, 3. COCONUT COAST

2. ROYAL TERN PLATE (2,000m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2-00: 1. Francis Bacon

Mark My Word lives up to its billing

HYDERABAD: Mark My Word (Suraj Narredu up) won the Major General Nawab Khursu Jung Bahadur Memorial Cup, the main event of the races held here on Sunday (Sept. 22). The winner is owned by M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah and trained by Satheesh. Jockey Akshay Kumar scored a treble.

1. JATPROLE CUP (DIV. II), (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): NO COMPROMISE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Star Of Tiara (Suraj Narredu) 2, Miss Marvellous (Ajit Singh) 3 and Mind Reader (B.R. Kumar) 4, 1-1/2, 8/4 and 2-1/4. Im, 38.84s. ₹18 (w), 5, 5 and 9 (p), SHP: 14, FP: 18, Q: 9, Tla: 37. Favourite: No Compromise. Owners: Dr. Peddi Reddy Prabhakar Reddy & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

2. P.V.G. RAJU MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): YOGASTHA (Afroz Khan) 1, Story Teller (Na-

Vettel ends a year-long drought

Masters a hazy circuit to to claim a record fifth triumph in Singapore; Leclerc finishes second

SINGAPORE GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SINGAPORE

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel ended his year-long drought without a win at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday, mastering a hazy circuit to claim a record fifth triumph in the city-state.

The German was chased home by teammate Charles Leclerc, who started on pole but lost the lead to the four-time world champion after making his pit stop, and Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who finished third.

"It was a very late call on the pit stop and I just gave it everything on the out lap. I was surprised to come out ahead and it was difficult to manage the tyres but we controlled it to the end," Vettel told reporters.

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton finished fourth but extended his advantage over fellow Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas to 65 points, with six races remaining, after the Finn finished in fifth.

Clean start

The race got off to a clean start with the top six retaining their grid positions despite Vettel putting immense



Long lost love: Sebastian Vettel makes his feelings known after winning in Singapore. ■REUTERS

pressure on second-placed Hamilton in the opening lap.

While a few drivers were shifting position further down the field, the frontrunners were maintaining a one-second gap between each other as Leclerc set a slow

pace to make his soft tyres last as long as possible.

Ferrari and Red Bull were the first of the big teams to bring their cars in for pit stops as Vettel and Verstappen were fitted with the more durable hard tyres on

lap 20, with Leclerc following suit on the next lap.

Leclerc, however, was dismayed to leave the pits behind Vettel. Hamilton stayed out on track in the lead to set about forging a big enough gap to retain the lead when it

was his turn to come in.

But Vettel, Leclerc and Verstappen were lapping much quicker than Hamilton and when the Briton finally stopped seven laps after his rivals, he emerged in a distant fourth place.

National tennis to kick off on September 30

Rawat and Zeel likely to be the top seeds

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Sidharth Rawat and Zeel Desai are likely to be the top seeds in the men's and women's sections respectively in the Fenesta National tennis championships, starting at the DLTA Complex here on September 30.

As per the acceptance list, three of the top-10 players in the country are scheduled to compete in the men's and women's events, which offer ₹3 lakh for the champions and ₹2 lakh for the runners-up.

Apart from the likes of Niki Poonacha, Aryan Goveas, Kunal Anand, Karunuday Singh and Ishaque Egbal, the men's field will also have three former national champions – V.M. Ranjeet, Dalwinder Singh and Mohit

Mayur.

Most of the other top players will be busy with their international commitments.

In the women's event, Mahak Jain, who won the title in the last two years, does not figure in the list of players.

Sowjanya Bavisetti, Bhuvana Kalva, Ramya Nataraajan, Sai Samhitha and Vaidehi Chaudhari are some of the other leading players in the main draw list, apart from four-time National champion Prerna Bhambri.

Exempt spots

In the absence of wild cards, there are two special exempt spots in the men's and women's events which will be filled by the upgradation of the qualifying list in the absence of suitable candidates.

Divij & Zelenay pair triumphs

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
ST. PETERSBURG

Divij Sharan and partner Igor Zelenay of Slovakia beat Matteo Berrettini and Simone Bolelli of Italy 6-3, 3-6, [10-8] to clinch the doubles title in the \$1,248,665 ATP Tour tennis tournament here on Sunday.

The duo collected 250 ATP points and \$66,740. The runners-up won 150 points and \$34,200. It was the fifth Tour doubles title for the 33-year-old Divij, who had started the season winning the Maharashtra Open ATP title in Pune with Rohan Bopanna.

It was also the third title of the season for Divij, who had



Divij. ■ FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

won the \$125,000 Ningbo Challenger a fortnight earlier with Matthew Ebden of Australia. The 49th-ranked Divij has so far won 16 Challenger and 19 Futures doubles titles, apart from the five Tour titles.

In the final on Sunday, the Italians led 5-2 in the super

THE RESULTS

1. Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) 1:58:33.667s, 2. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) + 2.641s, 3. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) + 3.821, 4. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) + 4.608, 5. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) + 6.119, 6. Alexander Albon (Red Bull) + 11.663, 7. Lando Norris (McLaren) + 14.769, 8. Pierre Gasly (Toro Rosso) + 15.547, 9. Nico Hulkenberg (Renault) + 16.718, 10. Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo Racing) + 17.855, 11. Romain Grosjean (Haas) + 35.436, 12. Carlos Sainz Jr (McLaren) + 35.974, 13. Lance Stroll (Racing Point) + 36.419, 14. Daniel Ricciardo (Renault) + 37.660, 15. Daniil Kvyat (Toro Rosso) + 38.178, 16. Robert Kubica (Williams) + 47.024, 17. Kevin Magnussen (Haas) + 1:26.522.

Championship standings:
Drivers: 1. Hamilton 296 points, 2. Bottas 231, 3. Leclerc 200, 4. Verstappen 200, 5. Vettel 194, 6. Gasly 69, 7. Sainz Jr 58, 8. Albon 42, 9. Ricciardo 34, 10. Kvyat 33, 11. Hulkenberg 33, 12. Norris 31, 13. Raikkonen 31, 14. Perez 27, 15. Stroll 19, 16. Magnussen 18, 17. Grosjean 8, 18. Giovinazzi 4, 19. Kubica 1, 20. George Russell 0.

Constructors: 1. Mercedes 527 points, 2. Ferrari 394, 3. Red Bull 289, 4. McLaren 89, 5. Renault 67, 6. Toro Rosso 55, 7. Racing Point 46, 8. Alfa Romeo Racing 35, 9. Haas 26, 10. Williams 1.

Marin and Momota triumph

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI

Triple World champion Carolina Marin retained her China Open title on Sunday, eight months after suffering a career-threatening injury.

The Spaniard recovered from a game down to defeat Taiwan's second-seeded Tai Tzu-ying 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 in Changzhou.

A tearful Marin collapsed to the court floor and buried her head in her hands after powering to victory in 65 minutes.

"There was some frustration with myself in the first game. I tried to keep calm. I had to be patient and find the good length on the shuttle. But the most important thing is I could fight until the end.

"I just waited until she made mistakes. I just wanted to play some long rallies because I knew this match was going to be really tough," said the Spaniard

Kento Momota cemented his place as the top men's player with a 19-21, 21-17, 21-19 win over Indonesia's seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in their final.

sections respectively in the concurrently conducted under-18 event.

There will be a bunch of top quality players like Mann Maulik Shah, Kabir Hans, Krishan Hooda, Ajay Malik, Sushant Dabas, Madhwin Kamath and Chirag Duhan in the boys event.

Sarah Dev, Sandeepthi Singh Rao, Rashmika Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Reshma Maruri, Prerna Vichare, Sanjana Sirimalla, Renee Singh will be some of the top players in the girls section.

As usual, the second week will feature the under-16 and 14 events for boys and girls.

The qualifying event for the first week will be played on Sept. 28 and 29.

Ireland and England post wins

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YOKOHAMA

Ireland powered past Scotland 27-3 to put itself in the box seat to reach the quarterfinals at the Rugby World Cup on Sunday.

Three push-over tries in the first half did the damage before wing Andrew Conway grabbed a fourth after the break to secure a bonus-point win, with games to come against Japan, Russia and Samoa in Pool A.

Bulldozing centre Manu Tuilagi scored two first-half tries as England laboured to an error-strewn 35-3 win over Tonga.

Jacobus stars for Gymkhana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Jacobus scored 17 points as Bombay Gymkhana out-classed Madurai Veerans 47-0 in the 86th all-India and South Asia rugby XV's championship at the CC&FC ground here on Sunday.

Prashant and Ammar scored 10 points apiece in Gymkhana's resounding victory.

Delhi Hurricanes and Magicians also recorded wins in other matches.

The results: Magicians 5 (Go-vind 5) bt Jungle Crows 0; Delhi Hurricanes 46 (Prince 15, Dipak Punia 6) bt ACE Foundation 0; Bombay Gymkhana 47 (Jacobus 17, Prashant 10, Ammar 10) bt Madurai Veerans 0.